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CONFIDENTIAL.

PART XXVI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

June 1878.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XXVI.

No. 1.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 9. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Galatz, May* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that I received some time since information that the export of grain had been forbidden by the Russian authorities at Toultcha. On the 20th March, in reply to an inquiry made by the Austrian Vice-Consul, it was stated that all exports were allowed, but on the 25th of that month, an order was suddenly issued forbidding further exports of grain with the exception of a small quantity, the proceeds of the collection of the tithes. This prohibition caused a considerable sensation at the time, the Russian officers looking upon it as a sign of the near approach of further hostilities.

As regards the collection by the Russians of taxes at Toultcha, the following has been communicated to me in confidence, as the result of enquiries made by one of my colleagues. A tax is being collected of 1 franc for each small vessel, and 20 paras per ton for those of larger dimensions, loading at Toultcha; there has been only one large vessel that has come under the operation of this tax. On a remark being made to the person charged with collecting the tax that there was no branch of the Board of Health at Toultcha, M. Theodoridi replied that the tax was not one appertaining to the Board of Health, but was a charge made for a bill of health or *visa*; he thought that the Turkish Captain of the Port formerly levied the same tax in accordance with the rules of the Commission, and he, M. Theodoridi, would be glad to have a copy of the rules for his guidance. He was informed that there was no rule of the Commission authorizing such a tax, but the Russian Governor of Toultcha continues to levy it. The Danube Commission is expecting a full report on the subject. At Sulina a tax is levied by the Russian authorities on account of the branch of the Board of Health at Constantinople; it has been levied in an irregular manner, but Colonel Siborne informs me that a representation has been made by the Executive Committee of the Commission of the Danube to the Russian Danube Commissioner on the subject. No complaints have been made here about these taxes.

I have been in communication with one of the members of the Commission of the Pruth on the subject of the alleged impediments to the navigation of that river. He tells me that no complaints have been made to the Commission, but it appears there are three bridges on that river, all of them made by the Russians.

The first is a permanent bridge at Soulcni, above the navigable part, and I understand that a Russo-Roumanian Committee is to examine into its construction, and report whether its presence may in any way cause damage to the works below.

The second is a bridge built by the Russians for the passage of artillery and troops

near the mouth of the river at a spot where there was formerly only a raft drawn backwards and forwards as a means of crossing. This bridge has been opened from time to time to allow of the passage of boats; latterly an arrangement has been made that it shall be opened three times a week, and with this the Commission has declared itself satisfied.

The third is the railway bridge of the Bender-Galatz line, built a little below that just noticed. It was so constructed as to be high enough, it was thought, to allow vessels to pass under it, but the late rise in the waters of the Pruth has lead to fears that there will not be sufficient room, and I understand that there has been one case of a vessel being unable to pass under.

Arrangements are now being made by the Russians for opening the centre part, and a pontoon is in course of construction, and should be finished in a few days, by means of which this object is to be attained; in the meanwhile the Pruth Commission have requested that the matter may be seen to without delay.

It appears to me that the rise in freights may be accounted for perfectly by the great demand for barges on the Danube and the shortness of the supply. The navigation of the Pruth is always more difficult and uncertain, and so long as full occupation can be found for barges on the Danube at high freights, owners will be unwilling to employ them on the Pruth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 2.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 655. Confidential.)
Therapia, May 21, 1878.

My Lord,

A SHORT time ago Sadyk Pasha informed me that he was engaged in drawing up a scheme for a new Organic Law for the government and administration of the Turkish Empire. He did not enter into details on the subject, merely giving me a general sketch of his views, which appeared to me just and liberal. The task of putting his Highness' ideas into form and French devolved upon two gentlemen—one an Englishman, the other a Frenchman (Mr. Parnis and M. Tarin)—who act as legal advisers to the Porte on international and other questions. A copy has been given to me, confidentially, of their draft report to the Prime Minister, and of the Organic Law accompanying it, which I have the honour to inclose. My numerous occupations have not yet permitted me to study these documents as they deserve, nor am I able to submit to your Lordship, as yet, any observations or criticisms upon them.

I would only venture to make a remark with respect to the suggestion that the Governor and other superior authorities of provinces and districts should be of the religion of the majority of the population—a plan which appears to have been adopted at the Conference of Constantinople. It appears to me that this is an illiberal and dangerous principle to lay down as a hard and fast rule. The best and most capable man should be chosen for such offices, whether he be Christian, Jew, or Mussulman. If the opposite principle be acted upon, the Valis and Sub-Governors must belong to the peculiar sect which form the majority of the people over whom they are placed. This might give rise, in a country where there is (as we know by experience) the utmost animosity between different sects, to great injustice and persecution. There would probably be more danger of an Orthodox Church persecuting a schismatic one than of a Mussulman vexing a Christian. The majority, supported and encouraged by the power that would be in the hands of one of their number, would have ample means of oppressing the minority. We should, I think, if consulted in the matter, hold fast to the right and liberal principle that the best man should be chosen to administer public affairs, without reference to his race or religion; and that the main object to be obtained is, not the exclusive protection or advancement of any particular creed, but the good and just government of all.

When I have had an opportunity of discussing this scheme of an Organic Law with Sadyk Pasha, and informing myself fully of his views on the subject, I will venture to write more on this subject to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Draft Report.

SI la Sublime Porte ne prend pas l'initiative d'un programme administratif et ne le fait pas agréer par les Puissances, ou du moins par quelques-unes d'entre elles, l'on peut être certain que l'Europe, quelle que soit l'issue de la crise actuelle, lui imposera, le moment venu, son propre programme. Mais les exigences de l'Europe seront d'autant plus dures que le Gouvernement Ottoman, n'ayant pas fait connaître ses intentions, pourra être accusé de n'avoir rien voulu faire.

La Sublime Porte se trouverait ainsi exposée à subir une volonté étrangère. Ce serait à la fois une humiliation et une atteinte à son indépendance, même si cette volonté étrangère se trouvait être conforme à la sienne.

Le danger que nous signalons et que nous voudrions prévenir, est d'autant plus réel et plus pressant que déjà circulent dans le monde politique et dans la presse Européenne des projets de décentralisation excessive et même de fédération des provinces Ottomanes, projets dont la réalisation serait la suppression de l'autorité directe du Sultan.

Le seul moyen de conjurer ce danger, c'est d'adopter d'urgence un programme d'administration assez large et assez libéral pour satisfaire tous ceux qui désirent à la fois le maintien de la domination Ottomane et l'établissement d'institutions propres à assurer la sécurité et la prospérité de toutes les populations de l'Empire.

Ce programme serait communiqué, à titre confidentiel, aux Puissances amies et, leur adhésion tacite une fois obtenue, la Sublime Porte les inviterait à lui faire connaître les garanties qu'elles croiraient nécessaires pour assurer l'exécution fidèle du programme convenu. Il faut en effet que ce soit encore la Sublime Porte qui prenne l'initiative de cette demande, car l'on peut être assuré que des garanties lui seraient quand même demandées et qu'il serait dès lors regrettable que le Gouvernement Ottoman semblât avoir voulu s'y dérober.

Aussitôt que la Sublime Porte aurait obtenu l'adhésion des Puissances unies sur ces deux points, elle devrait se hâter de promulguer son programme sous la forme solennelle d'une loi constitutive et fondamentale de l'Etat, sans attendre la solution de la crise politique actuelle et soit que cette crise se résolve par un arrangement pacifique, soit qu'elle aboutisse à la guerre.

La réalisation de ce projet aurait les résultats suivants:—

1. La Sublime Porte serait assurée qu'on ne lui imposerait pas des conditions inacceptables ou attentatoires à sa souveraineté, puisque le régime gouvernemental qu'elle aurait adopté et inauguré aurait reçu l'adhésion de celles des Puissances qui sont appelées à disposer de son sort ou qui, en tous cas, doivent exercer une influence décisive sur l'établissement d'un nouvel état de choses en Orient. Elle serait également assurée qu'on n'exigerait pas d'elle des garanties humiliantes ou trop rigoureuses, puisqu'elle se serait mise d'accord avec ces mêmes Puissances sur la nature et la forme des garanties jugées nécessaires.

2. Les populations de toutes les parties de l'Empire seraient rassurées et se montreraient moins ardentes à se soustraire à l'autorité du Sultan pour courir l'aventure d'une nouvelle destinée se présentant sous la forme, soit d'une autonomie politique, soit d'une annexion à quelque Etat voisin.

3. La solution des difficultés présentes serait grandement facilitée par la conviction qu'acquerrait l'Europe, que l'on peut compter sur l'Empire Ottoman pour l'établissement d'un ordre de choses normal et qu'il n'est point nécessaire de chercher, comme on semble le faire actuellement, de nouveaux éléments de gouvernement à substituer à la domination Ottomane.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Projet de Loi Constitutive instituant les Bases de l'Organisation Administrative, Judiciaire, Financière, et Militaire de l'Empire.

I.—Organisation Administrative.

(A.)—*Division et Administration du Vilayet.*

Le vilayet (province) est divisé en sandjaks (arrondissements). Le sandjak est divisé en nahiés (cantons). Le nahié se compose d'un certain nombre de communes. Les villes de plus de 10,000 habitants formeront un nahié distinct.

Le vilayet est administré par un Vali nommé par le Sultan. Le Vali devra appartenir à la même croyance que la majorité de la population du vilayet. Il aura près de lui un Mustéchar également nommé par le Sultan. Dans les vilayets où le Vali sera Musulman, son Mustéchar sera Chrétien et *vice versâ*. Les autres fonctionnaires attachés à l'administration du Vali seront nommés par le Vali sur la proposition du Conseil-Général du vilayet.

Le pouvoir exécutif appartient exclusivement au Vali, qui l'exerce dans toute l'étendue du vilayet au moyen des Mutessarifs, des Caïmacams, et des Mouktars. Il représente l'autorité suprême et veille à l'exécution des lois de l'Empire.

Le Conseil-Général du vilayet se composera de deux délégués de chaque sandjak, lesquels seront élus par le Conseil du sandjak.

Le Conseil-Général a pour attributions, la discussion, la délibération, et la décision de toutes les affaires administratives, sans qu'il puisse s'immiscer dans l'exercice du pouvoir judiciaire ou du pouvoir exécutif. Le Vali sera tenu d'en référer au Conseil-Général pour toute mesure administrative qui ne consisterait pas dans la mise à exécution pure et simple d'une disposition légale ou réglementaire.

En cas de conflit entre le Vali et le Conseil-Général, il en sera référé au Conseil des Conflits Administratifs, dont il sera parlé ci-après.

Le sandjak est administré par un Mutessarif, agissant sous l'autorité du Vali. Il est nommé par le Sultan. Il appartiendra à la croyance de la majorité de la population du sandjak. Il sera assisté d'un Mouavin, nommé également par le Sultan. Si le Mutessarif est Musulman, le Mouavin sera Chrétien, et *vice versâ*. Les autres fonctionnaires du sandjak seront nommés par le Mutessarif sur la proposition du Conseil du sandjak.

Le Mutessarif exerce le pouvoir exécutif sous l'autorité du Vali, dans les mêmes conditions que le Vali lui-même, mais dans les limites du sandjak.

Le Conseil du sandjak se compose d'un délégué de chaque nahié désigné par le Conseil du nahié. Ses attributions sont, dans les limites des intérêts locaux du sandjak, les mêmes que celles du Conseil-Général.

En cas de conflit entre Mutessarif et le Conseil du sandjak, il en sera référé au Vali et au Conseil-Général du vilayet conjointement.

Le Conseil du nahié se compose de cinq membres librement élus par les habitants mâles du nahié, âgés de vingt-et-un ans, jouissant de leurs droits civils, et payant une contribution directe de 50 piastres par an. Ce Conseil remplit près du Caïmacam les mêmes fonctions que le Conseil du sandjak près du Mutessarif. En cas de conflit entre le Conseil du nahié et le Caïmacam, il en sera référé au Mutessarif et au Conseil du sandjak conjointement.

La Commune est administrée par un Mouktar (Maire) nommé par le Vali, pris au sein du Conseil Municipal et appartenant à la croyance de la majorité du Conseil.

Les attributions du Maire consistent à exercer la police dans la Commune, à exécuter les ordres de l'autorité exécutive qui lui seront transmis par le Caïmacam et à assurer l'exécution des délibérations du Conseil Municipal prises dans la limite de ses attributions.

Le Conseil Municipal se compose d'un membre par 100 habitants, sans toutefois que le nombre des Conseillers Municipaux puisse excéder 20 membres. Il sera librement élu par les habitants de la Commune.

Le Conseil Municipal gère les biens de la Commune, fixe son budget, en règle l'emploi et repartit entre les habitants les contributions directes sujettes à répartition. Il est exclusivement chargé de pourvoir à la perception des impôts au moyen de percepteurs qu'il nommera lui-même. Enfin le Conseil Municipal exerce les fonctions de juge de paix dans les limites fixées par les lois judiciaires.

En cas de conflit entre le Maire et le Conseil Municipal, il en sera référé au Caïmacam et au Conseil du nahié conjointement.

L'ordre public est assuré dans toute l'étendue du vilayet au moyen d'une gendarmerie et d'une police locale recrutées dans le pays parmi les habitants indistinctement et placées sous les ordres directs de l'autorité exécutive dans chaque localité.

Les forces militaires seront placées sous l'autorité des commandants militaires qui ne pourront, dans aucun cas, s'immiscer dans l'administration du vilayet. Le Vali, assisté du Conseil-Général, aura seul le droit de requérir l'intervention de la force armée en cas de troubles à l'intérieur et d'insuffisance de la police locale.

Dans les vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe et dans les îles, les actes administratifs et judiciaires seront faits à la fois dans la langue Turque et dans la langue en usage dans la majorité de la population Chrétienne.

Une Commission de législation administrative sera instituée dans la capitale à l'effet d'élaborer un règlement administratif développant et réglant dans leurs détails les principes qui viennent d'être posés.

(B.)—*Instruction Publique.*

L'enseignement public est libre dans tout l'Empire.

Il est permis à toute communauté et à tout individu jouissant de ses droits civiles d'établir des écoles pour l'enseignement primaire ou supérieur et de faire des cours publics sous la surveillance de l'autorité au point de vue des bonnes mœurs, de l'ordre public et du respect des lois de l'Etat. Cette surveillance sera exercée dans chaque vilayet par le Vali et le Conseil-Général conjointement.

Tous les Ottomans, sans distinction de race et de religion, sont également admissibles dans les écoles civiles et militaires du Gouvernement Impérial.

II.—Organisation Judiciaire.

(A.)—*Législation.*

Les lois Nizamiés (civiles, criminelles, &c.), seront complétées et se composeront des Codes suivants :—

1. Code Civil. Adoption du Code Civil Français, modifié suivant les coutumes du pays.
2. Code de Procédure Civile, à élaborer sur la base du Code de Procédure Commerciale actuel en le complétant.
3. Code de Commerce. Code de Commerce actuel confirmé.
4. Code de Procédure Commerciale. Code actuel complété.
5. Code Pénal. Code actuel.
6. Code d'Instruction Criminelle à élaborer en s'inspirant des législations Française et Anglaise.

(B.)—*Tribunaux.*

Institution de Tribunaux Nizamiés (Civils, Commerciaux, Criminels, et Correctionnels), dont la compétence s'étendra à toutes les contestations mobilières ou immobilières entre les sujets Ottomans indistinctement, à l'exception des questions concernant le mariage et l'état civil des personnes; lesquelles questions seront déférées, pour les Musulmans, aux Tribunaux du Chériat et, pour les non-Musulmans, aux Tribunaux des Communautés.

Il sera établi dans chaque vilayet un nombre de Tribunaux Nizamiés de chaque degré, suffisant pour assurer l'administration de la Justice, savoir :—

1. Tribunaux de Paix, dont les décisions au-delà d'une certaine somme seront appellables devant les Tribunaux de Première Instance;
2. Tribunaux de Première Instance, dont les décisions au-delà d'une certaine somme seront appellables à la Cour d'Appel du vilayet.
3. Cour d'Appel unique pour chaque vilayet, appelée à connaître en dernier ressort des jugements rendus par les Tribunaux de Première Instance.
4. Institution d'une Cour de Cassation unique à Constantinople, à laquelle pourront être déférés les jugements des Cours d'Appel, mais seulement pour violation ou fausse application de la loi. Le recours en Cassation ne suspendra l'exécution des arrêts qu'en matière criminelle. Les juges seront inamovibles. Ils

devront être choisis parmi les hommes capables, et l'on aura recours, en cas de besoin, à titre transitoire, au concours des étrangers.

Un Ministère Public sera attaché aux Tribunaux de Première Instance et d'Appel.

Les audiences seront publiques. La défense sera libre. Le témoignage (dans les cas où il est admis par la loi) sera reçu sous serment des Musulmans et des non-Musulmans. Les instances devant les Tribunaux seront introduites directement par les justiciables, sans l'intermédiaire d'aucune administration.

Les contestations entre l'Etat, les administrations publiques et les particuliers seront du ressort des Tribunaux Nizamié.

Une Commission de législation judiciaire sera instituée dans la Capitale à l'effet de développer les principes qui viennent d'être posés et de régler les détails d'application.

III.—Organisation Financière.

Le régime des impôts directs ou indirects en Turquie sera réformé.

Jusqu'à l'accomplissement de cette réforme, les seuls impôts pouvant être légalement perçus seront les suivants, savoir:—

Contributions Directes.—Le verghi et la patente.

Impositions Directes.—La dîme, taxes sur le bétail, douanes, spiritueux, sel et tabac, &c.

Aucun autre impôt, direct ou indirect, ne pourra être établi qu'en vertu d'une loi.

La perception de tous les impôts et la répartition des impôts directs appartiennent exclusivement aux Conseils Municipaux des Communes.

Le produit total des impôts directs et indirects de chaque vilayet sera affecté, dans des proportions à déterminer, aux besoins généraux de l'Etat et aux besoins généraux du vilayet.

Une Commission de législation financière sera instituée dans la capitale, à l'effet d'élaborer une loi établissant le nouveau régime des impôts directs et indirects. Cette Commission sera également chargée d'élaborer un projet de règlement de la dette publique intérieure et extérieure, et de l'extinction ou de la conversion de la dette flottante.

IV.—Organisation Militaire.

Tous les Ottomans sans distinction sont astreints au service militaire suivant la loi du recrutement.

Une Commission Législative pour la constitution de la force publique élaborera les lois de recrutement, d'exemption, et de rachat du service militaire applicables au même degré et au même titre à tous les Ottomans.

V.—Dispositions Générales.

(A.)—*Conseil Supérieur des Conflits*

Il sera institué dans la capitale un Conseil Supérieur auquel seront référés tous les conflits soulevés entre le Vali et le Conseil-Général, et qui statuera souverainement sur les dits conflits.

Ce Conseil aura tous pouvoirs de faire des enquêtes locales, soit par l'organe d'un de ses membres délégué à cet effet, soit par tout autre moyen d'instruction.

Le Conseil Supérieur des Conflits connaîtra également des plaintes qui lui seront adressées sous forme de pétition, soit par des magistrats ou fonctionnaires à l'égard de leurs supérieurs, soit par des particuliers à l'égard des fonctionnaires. Dans le cas où la plainte serait reconnue fondée par le Conseil, elle sera renvoyée à l'administration intéressée pour qu'il y soit fait droit.

Le Conseil Supérieur des Conflits sera composé d'un délégué de chaque vilayet désigné par le Conseil-Général, et d'un nombre égal de fonctionnaires nommés par le Sultan. Il sera présidé par le Président du Conseil d'Etat.

Toutes les décisions et résolutions du Conseil Supérieur des conflits seront soumises à la sanction Impériale et rendues publiques.

(B.)—*Commissions de Législation.*

Les quatre Commissions de Législation, Administrative, Judiciaire, Financière, et Militaire chargées d'élaborer les lois et règlements qui doivent être le développement des principes généraux proclamés par le présent Acte, seront composées chacune de cinq membres nommés par le Sultan et pris parmi les notabilités de chaque spécialité, en recourant au besoin au concours de notabilités étrangères.

Les projets élaborés par ces Commissions devront être convertis en lois de l'Empire et mis à exécution au plus tard dans le cours d'une année.

No. 3.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 656.)

Therapia, May 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Crete, containing suggestions for a compromise between the Mussulman and Christian populations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, May* 11, 1878.

I UNDERSTAND, by your Excellency's cyphered telegram of the 7th instant, that you do me the honour to wish me to suggest some sort of compromise between the Mussulmans and Christians in Crete, as well as the manner in which such a compromise could be brought about.

In my despatch, in which I stated that in the present disposition of the Christians and Mussulmans some compromise between them might be arrived at, I pointed out, as a bar to such a compromise, the attitude of the Chiefs come over from Greece. In the following despatch I referred to the influences hostile to an arrangement which might be encountered on the part of the Mussulmans in the towns.

It would be presumptuous in me to suggest a compromise between the two hostile parties, because I am not in a position to know what are the views of the Porte in the present unhappy dispute between it and its Cretan subjects, neither can I know how far Her Majesty's Government is prepared to go in undertaking the office of mediator. I conclude that some sort of mediation Her Majesty's Government would be willing to offer, having already done so in the case of Thessaly, but I cannot, of course, say whether Her Majesty's Government would undertake the responsibility of the engagements which the proposal I have now the honour to make would entail upon it.

I trust, therefore, that in the following rough outline of a plan for bringing about a reconciliation between the two estranged communities in Crete, your Excellency will believe that I put it forward with the utmost reluctance, and that I only profess to know what are the feelings of the Cretans in this matter.

Bearing in mind that the task before me is to devise some expedient for inducing the Mussulman peasantry to return to their homes with the consent of the Christians, I beg to remark that that task involves the previous question of assuring to the latter an amelioration of their political condition. They are at length convinced that they cannot hope to attain their ends by their own unaided efforts nor by the secret help of Greece. They would therefore, I have reason to believe, desire that the shaping of their future lot should be undertaken by the Great Powers, which they suppose to be acquainted with their wants. Presuming that as a preliminary step a cessation of hostilities could be arranged, if it were notified to them that their future political régime should be left to the decision of the Great Powers (or of Great Britain alone) in concert with the Porte, I am of opinion that, without consenting to give up their arms, they would engage in the most solemn manner to respect the lives and property of the Moslems who might venture to return among them. It would require this most solemn assurance on their part to justify an appeal to the Mussulman refugees

to return to their homes, which they might be expected to do when they understood that Her Majesty's Government was acting as mediator between them and their Christian countrymen. For my part I know of no stronger inducement which could be held out to the Christians for keeping the peace than the fact that they had pledged their faith to do so to a Government which they respect so much as that of Great Britain, and I should have no fear of the result. I need not say, however, that it would be necessary that I should exact from the Provisional Government and from the more prominent Chiefs a sacred promise that the persons and property of the Mussulmans should be respected. The assurances on this point which I should expect to receive from them I might then impart to the Moslem peasantry, and if the local Government cordially co-operated with me in combating their scruples, I see no reason why their natural repugnance to trust themselves in the power of the Christians should not be overcome.

The problem which I have been endeavouring to solve is one beset with so many difficulties that I am quite prepared to learn that it is incapable of solution by peaceful methods.

It was the sight of the misery endured by the guiltless and uncomplaining Moslem refugees who crowd this town which made me hopeful that some means might be devised for restoring them to their homes without the necessity of having recourse to a war which would bring ruin on the entire population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—Your Excellency's telegram having reached me the day after the departure of the weekly steamer there was no opportunity of dispatching this my reply till the 14th instant. I thought it advisable to inform your Excellency of this long delay, which I did by the following telegram, dated the 9th instant:—

"There is no opportunity of answering your Excellency's telegram of the 7th instant till post day, on the 14th instant, except by telegraphing *en clair*."

T. B. S.

No. 4.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 665.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 23, 1878.

VASSILAKI BEY SARAKIOTI and M. Psichari, the two gentlemen who represent the Greek inhabitants of Philippopolis and the surrounding districts, and who are endeavouring to obtain protection for them from persecution by the Russians and Bulgarians, brought to me to-day three Greeks who had just arrived from that town, and who desired to place before me their grievances. One of them is connected with a house of business at Philippopolis, and, on the pretence of his being a Bulgarian, had been drawn for service in a Bulgarian regiment about to be formed. The other two are proprietors of vineyards at Stanimaka, a large town inhabited by a considerable Greek population, and two hours from Philippopolis. I had a long and interesting conversation with them as to the condition of their country since the Russian occupation. They described to me in detail the persecution which now prevailed against all those who were not of the Bulgarian schismatic Church, whether Orthodox Greeks, Catholics, Armenians, Jews, or Mussulmans. They stated that the Bulgarian clergy, supported by the Russian military authorities, were taking possession of the Greek churches; that the Greek Archbishop and clergy were constantly insulted by the Bulgarians; that all the Greek schools, except two supported by M. Zarifi, of Constantinople, had been closed; that the Bulgarian language was the only one recognized as official, and that no communications of any kind could be made, or would be received, in Greek; that the municipal rights which the Greek community had formerly enjoyed for its own administration had been withdrawn; that an attempt was being made to compel the Greeks to acknowledge themselves Slavs, and that in many cases Bulgarians had been sent to occupy Mussulmun houses, whose owners had been killed or expelled, in Greek villages, which were now declared to have a Bulgarian population, and consequently to be Bulgarian; that the ancient names of Philippopolis and other towns had been changed to Slav names; and that these new names must be adopted in all legal documents; and that the taxes had been much increased and were rigorously exacted. They further complained that in cases of

outrage and ill-treatment committed upon Greeks, it was useless for them to address themselves to the Russian authorities, who would afford them no redress, and that it was evidently the intention of the Russians and Bulgarians either to "Bulgarianize" the Greek inhabitants of the Province of Philippopolis, or to drive them out of it. They said that under the Turkish rule they had little to complain of, except the maladministration of justice. They were permitted the use of their language, and their schools, churches, and communal institutions were not interfered with. They could speak and teach as they liked; their taxation was light, and they were exempted from military service. Their countrymen, they declared, would greatly prefer to return to Turkish rule to being placed under that of the Bulgarians. They could not remain, they said, in the country if it were given over to the Bulgarians.

Such is the substance of what these persons told me. Their statements may be exaggerated, or the condition of things they describe may be improved when peace is completely restored and a regular administration is introduced into the proposed Bulgarian Principality. But there is no doubt that the Greeks who are to live within its limits are convinced that their state under the Bulgarians will be far worse than it was under the Porte, and that a bitter feeling of hostility is springing up between the two races.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 5.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 666.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 24, 1878.

I BROUGHT to the notice of the Prime Minister the substance of Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatch to me, No. 51 of the 11th instant (copy transmitted to your Lordship), relating to the intrigues in Mount Lebanon, and the complaints that certain parties were making against the Governor-General. His Highness said that these intrigues were well known to the Porte, and that as Rustem Pasha had asked for leave of absence on account of the state of his health it had been given to him, and he was expected at Constantinople. On his arrival he would furnish full explanations to the Government as to the state of affairs in the Mountain.

I understand that it is very probable that he will not return to Syria. The choice of his successor as Governor-General of the Lebanon is unfortunately very limited. He must be a Roman Catholic subject of the Sultan. It is not easy, at this moment, to find a competent person so qualified, and I could not readily name one. This fact illustrates a remark that I ventured to make to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 405 of the 21st instant, to the effect that it appeared to me very undesirable that, in settling for the future government of provinces belonging to the Porte which are to be endowed with a certain amount of autonomy, it should be provided that the Governors and sub-Governors should belong to the creed of the majority. Thus in the case of the Governorship of Mount Lebanon, a bad and incompetent Roman Catholic, if a good and competent one cannot be found, must be preferred to a Mussulman, a Greek, or an Armenian who may be in all respects fitted for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 6.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 667.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 24, 1878.

THE Porte has received information from Sami Pasha and Wassa Effendi, the Commissioners sent by it to communicate with the insurgents in Mount Rhodope, with a view to bring about a suspension of hostilities, that their mission has been unsuccessful. The insurgents declare that as they cannot be protected by the Turkish Government, and will not live under the Russians and Bulgarians, who have committed the outrages upon them which have driven them into insurrection, they are determined to continue the struggle, and to die with arms in their hands. The Russians appear to have attacked them in force a few days ago, and, according to a report to the

Turkish newspapers, with some success, as they brought back prisoners and a number of arms to Adrianople.

Mr. St. Clair, an Englishman, for some time resident in Constantinople, and known to be mixed up with Polish and other plots, has joined the insurgents in Mount Rhodope with several Poles and Hungarians. They expect to obtain, from some secret source in Europe, money and arms, of which the insurgents are in great need. The attempt of Ali Suavi Effendi to proclaim the ex-Sultan Murad was, it appears, not altogether unconnected with the movement in Mount Rhodope, which is spreading elsewhere. He was in communication with the Chiefs of it, and was privy, I have reason to believe, to the proceedings of Mr. St. Clair and those who have gone with him to promote the insurrection. Ali Suavi's object in wishing to place the deposed Sultan on the throne was to force Turkey into a renewal of the war with Russia. I am informed that he had endeavoured to persuade some persons about the Sultan that it was only by a war, in which Europe would have to take part, that the Turkish Empire could be saved. Not having been successful in his attempt to induce the Sultan to re-commence hostilities against Russia, he was determined to upset him and to replace him by his brother, who, from all accounts that reach me, is hopelessly imbecile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 7.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 668.)
Therapia, May 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Brophy, giving an account of the plunder of the Mussulmans of the village of Kara Aghadje, and the violation of Mussulman women and girls by Russian soldiers. The difference between "Russian atrocities" and "Bulgarian atrocities" is not, it appears to me, very great, except that the former will, I suppose, be justified because they are committed in the cause of humanity and civilization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Enos, May 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 2nd May a company of Russian infantry surrounded the village of Kara Aghadj (15 Mussulman, 20 Bulgarian houses), in the Caza of Achiolo, and summoned the Turkish inhabitants to surrender; the summons being complied with, all the adult males, to the number of 32—two very old men being alone excepted—were placed under arrest in a straw-shed, and the Russian soldiers commenced to pillage. A number of women and girls were outraged by them; all the cattle, and all portable plunder, were carried and sold by the troops in the town of Achiolo, where household gear and women's dresses and ornaments were to be bought for a song. The Turks of Kara Aghadj are accused, rightly or wrongly, of participation in the murders at Eski Pasli, of which I spoke in my despatch of the 6th May; many persons, however, believe that the attack upon them was instigated by a certain Petraki, a Bulgarian, who is a member of the Russo-Bulgarian Provisional Administration in Achiolo, and with whom the villagers had formerly a law-suit about a disputed right of pasture. However this may be, it is perfectly certain that the Russian soldiers (who were not accompanied by any Bulgarians) looted the village and outraged the women, although not the faintest attempt at resistance was made.

The 32 men were brought to Achiolo; 23 of these have since been released, 9 remaining in prison, and I learn from various sources that the latter have been repeatedly tortured in order to make them confess; the means employed is said to be, stretching the man's arms out at right angles to the body, by passing a stick under the sleeves of their coats, and behind the back, and then suspending them by cords, so that their toes only just touched the ground, beating with sticks and deprivation of food. Three persons, an old man named Ibz Oglou Ahmet, his son, Ali, and Guichuk Oglou Hussein, are particularly mentioned to me as being amongst those who have suffered the worst treatment in this respect.

About ten days since, the Turkish villages of Osmankeui (25 houses), in the Caza of Achiolo, was, without any provocation, attacked and partially burnt by Bulgarians, the inhabitants escaping to the Misseveia Balkan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 8.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 56. Political.)
Canea, Crete, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HASTEN to correct an error into which I fell in reporting in my last despatch that several hundred Mussulmans had gathered before the Governor's konak, and threatened to rescue the prisoner Arapaki. It appears that several hundred had formed the resolution to rescue him, and that some were watching their opportunity in street corners. Certain leading citizens seeing that a rescue was resolved on, went to Costaki Pasha, and persuaded his Excellency to abandon his intention of exiling the culprit, Arapaki, which he accordingly did. In this way the public scandal of the Governor giving way to the threats of the populace was partly avoided. The Vali had vainly endeavoured to prevail upon the Mussulman members of the Special Commission in Canea to try Arapaki and his accomplices who had been brought here by Salih Pasha. They have now, with the exception of their ringleader, been sent back to Rethymo, where they are still at large.

The troops in Rethymo committed considerable damage in the four villages of Azipopulo, Armenus, Castelli, and Prino, during their late advance into the territory of the insurgents. They desecrated all the churches, carried off the doors and rafters of some of the houses to sell in the town, cut down trees, and uprooted some vine-yards. In the work of destruction they were joined by the zaptiehs and Bashi-Bazouks, who had been recently armed by Salih Pasha with Martini rifles. Nevertheless, most of the houses in these four villages remain uninjured, and can afford sufficient accommodation to the inhabitants.

As I had the honour to report in my last communication, Costaki Pasha went down at once to Rethymo, and only returned last night. His Excellency's presence had a marvellous effect in restoring confidence. Communications with the country, which had been interrupted for six weeks, have been reopened, the Christian peasants have returned to their injured villages, and are reaping their harvest, and, for the first time, those within the military cordon have been authorized to carry arms for their protection. The battalion which was guilty of the late plundering has been replaced by another, and the soldiers are now undergoing their trial, several of whom have been declared guilty. Some few Christian villages in the district of Milopotamos, five or six miles from Rethymo, whose inhabitants had fled, have made their submission to the Government and are now busy with their harvest. If the Vali were well seconded by the military authorities half of the disorders which take place would be avoided.

Before dawn on the 16th instant the Turkish troops began to advance towards Alikiano, situated seven miles south-west of this town. After a great deal of firing, which lasted the greater part of that day, Alikiano, and two or three other villages, were occupied yesterday, after a loss in killed and wounded of 18 soldiers and 12 irregulars. The latter plundered a small village which the inhabitants had abandoned in a hurry, leaving their household stuff behind them. No cruelties appear to have been practised on any one, a few children who had been left in the panic being taken care of by the troops.

Near Suda Bay some skirmishing has also been going on.

The majority of the respectable Mussulmans view these attacks with displeasure, as they are anxious for the pacification of the island, which they are aware cannot be effected by force unless considerable reinforcements are sent. The moment indeed

seems ill-chosen for re-opening hostilities when both communities desire a reconciliation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S. *May* 10.—By a telegram received yesterday from Mr. Trifili, the Consular Agent in Rothymo, he informs me that all yesterday fighting was going on at a village named Ampelaki, some six miles distant; that several Turks had been brought into town killed and wounded, and that the insurgents, who retained their positions, had burnt down a blockhouse. All my colleagues have received telegrams giving the same news. Costaki Pasha, whom I have just seen, tells me that no such serious tidings have reached him, the insurgents having merely made a demonstration. His Excellency gave me a most encouraging account of the disposition of both Christians and Mussulmans in those parts. He says that the whole sub-district (caza) of Rothymo is occupied by the troops and that all the inhabitants are engaged with their harvest; that a part also of the Caza of Milopotamos (to the east of Rothymo) has now been occupied, and that the Christian inhabitants generally ardently desire the Moslems to return, whose property, he assures me, is quite uninjured. On the other hand, in Kissamos (to the west of Canea) the Christians appear to have done a good deal of damage to the houses and farms of the Moslem peasantry. His Excellency let it appear pretty plainly that he did not approve the late attack at Alikianu, which took place during his absence at Rothymo, and he has formally forbidden hostilities to be undertaken in the Caza of Apokorona which Salih Pasha was contemplating.

7 P.M.—I regret to be obliged to add that several villages in Kissamos beyond Alikianu have been invaded by bands of Bashi-Bazouks, who have plundered the inhabitants of all that they possessed. These are the peaceful villagers who, the Vali assured me, were desirous of the presence of the troops to protect them from the insurgents. They are now fled in the greatest distress to the mountains. It is evident that the authorities cannot guarantee the safety of the inhabitants who wish to make their submission until all these Bashi-Bazouks are disarmed.

Further intelligence from Rethymo only confirms the telegram received from the Consular Agent yesterday. As many as 2,000 insurgents are said to be approaching nearer the town. This fresh outbreak of hostilities has occurred at a most inopportune moment, and will render the work of pacification vastly more difficult.

The names of the plundered villages in Kissamos are Modi, Yerani, Vryses, Kodomari, Xanudochori, Xenidochori, and Maliones. The Vali had previously caused it to be proclaimed in these villages that the inhabitants must remain at home, as they had nothing to fear.

T. B. S.

No. 9.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 42. Political.)
Scutari, May 11, 1878.
My Lord,

THE communication made by M. Duby to Hussein Pasha and me yesterday is hardly confirmed by the information reaching us to-day.

All the Montenegrin Chiefs, and even the Albanian Bairaktars of those tribes which have kept up friendly relations with Prince Nicholas, have been directed to present themselves before His Highness, and all the able-bodied men have been instructed to hold themselves in readiness for the speedy resumption of hostilities, whilst their supplies of cartridges have been renewed.

Messengers have anew been sent to the Mirdites, and the Slav rayahs in North Albania have received notice to rise in rebellion.

The Mirdite Chieftain, Prenk Bib Doda, having within the last few days obtained the Sultan's pardon, has failed, as yet, to present himself to the Pasha here.

The latter has suddenly been called upon by the Austrian Government, through its Consul-General, to account for excesses in the Mirdite district, said to have been committed by his soldiers many weeks ago; and his Excellency believes the Consul's complaints are connected with the Mirdite Chieftain's failure to appear in Scutari.

Orders have been this day received from Constantinople for a daily telegraphic report to be sent to the Porte of all that passes in North Albania.

I would suggest, should your Lordship wish to know what importance should be given to the communication made by Prince Nicholas's Secretary, and to the object of the above-mentioned hostile proceedings in Montenegro, that I should be ordered to visit the Principality. The reason for my visit could be easily explained by my taking my wife with me, who is anxious to be presented to the Princess, and to see Montenegro during the mild weather of spring. I should be careful to abstain from compromising myself in any way, and should confine myself to observing everything around me.

Your Lordship's orders in the above sense, I feel convinced, would afford satisfaction to the Pasha here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 10.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 43. Political.)
Scutari, May 13, 1878.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Hussein Pasha fears the Montenegrins are meditating a surprise of Holm, as they are assembling numerous lake boats at Rieka.

I am also informed that the Herzegovinians who are in Montenegro are receiving money at the hands of Russian agents, who state that the distribution is being made in order to enable the refugees to repatriate themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 11.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 44. Political.)
Scutari, May 13, 1878.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Prince Nicholas has directed M. Duby to return at once to Cettigné, where important affairs call for his presence, and as he has not succeeded in the alleged object of securing the free navigation of the Boyana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 12.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 45. Political.)
Scutari, May 13, 1878.
My Lord,

BY my telegram of the 10th instant I had the honour to report to your Lordship the presence in Scutari of M. Duby, the Secretary of the Prince of Montenegro.

He had been sent here to facilitate the delivery of the maize still due to Montenegro from the Turks, and which had been delayed through difficulties on the part of the former to receive it, and also to endeavour to come to some temporary arrangement about opening the River Boyana once more to navigation.

In the first matter an immediate understanding has been arrived at, especially as the Turkish authorities have always acknowledged their obligation to fulfil an engagement entered into through British good offices.

Concerning the second point, of the navigation of the whole extent of the Boyana by vessels under Montenegrin colours, Hussein Pasha expressed himself unable to authorize it; but his Excellency offered to raise no objections to the appearance of the flag on the waters between San Nicolo and San Giorgio, the points which form the limits of the Montenegrin occupation of the right bank of the river, provided Turkish and foreign shipping have the free use of the Boyana as before the advance of the Montenegrins.

Hussein Pasha also promised, should his proposal be accepted, to permit the exportation to Montenegro of cereals and other provisions which he has been obliged to prohibit owing to the scarcity occasioned in Scutari and Podgoritza through the existing blockade of the Boyana.

M. Duby, having telegraphed for instructions to Cettigné, has now been informed that he must return at once to Montenegro, as Prince Nicholas cannot permit the reopening of the Boyana until the right of his flag to navigate on its waters is unreservedly admitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 13.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 47. Political.)

Cettigné, May 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Scutari the day before yesterday morning, and arrived here the same evening, having had my journey facilitated in every possible way both by the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities.

Shortly before reaching Cettigné a letter was handed to me from Prince Nicholas, and which had been addressed to me before it was known that I was coming here. I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of this letter.

His Highness states in it that, having ascertained that preparations are going on in Albania for an attack on Montenegro, he has thought it proper to call my colleagues at Scutari and me to witness that should an aggression such as expected occur the responsibility of it will rest solely with the Turks.

I lost no time in informing M. Duby, the Prince's Secretary, that on the eve of my departure from Scutari, Hussein Pasha had, on his side, expressed to me fears regarding the intentions of Montenegro, and had asked me, should an opportunity be afforded to me, to explain to the Prince the alarm which the hostile preparations on the frontier had occasioned.

Next morning their Highnesses the Prince and Princess graciously accorded my wife and me an audience, and received us with the courtesy and kindness which they know so well how to show to strangers visiting Montenegro, and which has made them so deservedly popular.

Their Highnesses did not fail to renew an often repeated assurance of satisfaction at the intercourse which, although of rather an informal nature, has recently taken place between them and some of Her Majesty's Consular Officers; and then Prince Nicholas proceeded to repeat to me the substance of his letter already alluded to.

His Highness, on learning my conviction that Hussein Pasha had no aggressive intentions, but, on the contrary, believes they exist in Montenegro, stretched his hand out to me, and, clasping mine in his, said that he pledged his Princely word of honour to me, as Her Majesty's Consul, that no hostile movement was contemplated nor would be undertaken against Turkey, and that, even if war was unfortunately to break out again, he would give Hussein Pasha notice full fifteen days before of his intention to recommence hostilities.

His Highness asked me to telegraph his assurance to the Pasha, and added that, as he wished to cover my responsibility, he would give me the pledge in writing, but I said that I felt full security under His Highness's verbal engagement.

On my return to the hotel I drew up the draft of the telegram I proposed dispatching to Hussein Pasha, and caused it to be shown to the Prince, who returned it to me after having countersigned it in the following manner:—

"C'est très bien.—NICOLAS."

I beg to furnish herewith a copy of this telegram, as well as copies of three telegrams on the same subject, communicated to me by the Prince's orders.

Later in the day and in the evening His Highness informed me several times that the news arriving from the Albanian frontiers became more and more alarming, and tended to indicate that the Turkish authorities were bent on bringing about a conflict. I persisted, however, in my conviction that they were acting loyally, and that the assurance sent by me to Scutari in the morning would restore confidence.

I am happy to be able to report that this afternoon both my colleagues in Albania

and Hussein Pasha have telegraphed to the Prince in the sense I had expected, that His Highness is expressing himself more reassured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

The Prince of Montenegro to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, le 7/18 Mai, 1878.

M. le Consul,

JE viens d'apprendre, de source parfaitement sûre, un fait qui peut avoir des suites d'une certaine gravité, et je crois devoir vous en donner, ainsi qu'à messieurs vos collègues, l'avis formel.

Il se prépare en Albanie contre le Monténégro une attaque plus ou moins sérieuse. Elle n'a, peut-être, pour but que de causer une esclandre fâcheuse, au moment même où l'Europe se prépare à régler à l'amiable les questions en suspens. Je n'ai rien fait, et ne ferai rien, pour provoquer une agression; si celle-ci se produit elle sera rigoureusement repoussée. A cet égard là je suis sans inquiétude; ainsi le but de cette communication est-il simplement de vous avertir que je récuse toute responsabilité dans ce qui pourra arriver, et de vous mettre en mesure de témoigner, le cas échéant, que je n'aurai fait que me défendre contre un guet-apens préparé de longue main.

Vous priant de prendre bonne note de ce qui précède, je saisis, &c.,

Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICOLAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Consul Kirby Green to the Governor-General of Scutari.

Cettigné, le 20 Mai, 1878, 2 P.M.

(Télégraphique.)

AYANT eu l'occasion de faire connaître à Son Altesse le Prince la crainte que votre Excellence m'a exprimée la veille de mon départ que le Monténégro médite une attaque contre vos positions, elle vient de me donner la plus formelle assurance qu'il n'y a aucune base pour cette crainte. De plus Son Altesse m'a donné, en ma qualité de Consul Anglais, sa parole d'honneur que si malheureusement la guerre devait éclater de nouveau le Monténégro n'entreprendra aucune hostilité sans avoir donné un avis préalable à votre Excellence de quinze jours.

Le Prince m'a communiqué les avis très-sérieux qu'il a reçus, et qui semblent annoncer une agression du côté de l'Albanie contre les positions Monténégrines. Je serais heureux de pouvoir donner à Son Altesse de votre part des assurances pareilles à celles dont j'ai eu le plaisir d'être chargé de sa part.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

Telegraphic Correspondence.

(No. 1.)

Hussein Pasha à M. Macko Verbitza, Chef d'Etat Major, Cettigné.

Scutari, le 18 Mai, 9·55 soir (Reçue Cettigné, le 19 Mai, 9·45 matin).

IL résulte de données positives que les Monténégrins font des préparatifs hostiles du côté de Podgoritza, ce qui m'oblige à vous faire demander de me communiquer sa réponse le plus tôt possible par voie télégraphique.

Le Gouverneur-Général et Commandant-en-chef à Scutari,
(Signé) HUSSEIN.

(No. 2.)

M. Mucho Vérbitza à Son Excellence Hussein Pacha, Gouverneur-Général et Commandant-en-chef, Scutari.

Cettigné, le 19 Mai, 10 h. du matin.

En réponse à la dépêche de votre Excellence reçue ce jour, je suis chargé de vous déclarer, positivement et sur l'honneur, que le Monténégro ne pense à faire aucun mouvement agressif quelconque. Il attend patiemment Paris, probablement très prochain, d'une entente définitive entre la Sublime Porte et la Russie. Je dois vous dire que des avis, également très-positifs, nous parviennent depuis quelques jours, d'après lesquels il se préparerait de votre côté une attaque contre nos positions. Nous tiendrons à nous persuader que les apparences qui ont éveillé nos soupçons sont également trompeuses.

Le Chef d'Etat Major,
(Signé) VÉRBITZA.

(No. 3.)

Aux Consuls à Scutari.

Cettigné, le 20 Mai, 10 h. du matin.

Je vous confirme ma lettre du 18 qui vous signalait les préparatifs hostiles faits par les Turcs contre nos lignes.

Mon Chef d'Etat-Major a reçu hier matin une dépêche de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général imputant au Monténégro des intentions hostiles. Il y a été répondu par une dénégation formelle.

J'ai pu espérer que, des deux côtés, les Commandants locaux avaient été alarmés par des apparences mal comprises; mais les avis que je reçois maintenant me laissent peu de doute. Je viens donc vous prendre en témoin que, s'il y a du sang versé, le Monténégro est exempt de toute responsabilité. Vu la marche du service télégraphique, je vous serai obligé de m'accuser réception de cette dépêche immédiatement.

Le Prince de Monténégro.
(Signé) NICOLAS.

No. 14.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 419. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 25, 1878.*

HAVING heard from Mr. Monson that M. Tisza had intimated to M. Balatchano that he would not be indisposed to permit the passage into Roumania of the rifles bought in England for Prince Charles' army, if he did not believe Count Andrassy to object to it, I yesterday informed the Count of the language of the President of the Hungarian Government.

The way his Excellency received my communication convinced me that M. Tisza had only used his name as a means of avoiding the responsibility which properly belonged to him as head of the Hungarian administration; and I ascertained to-day that Count Andrassy has directed M. Tisza to be informed that he would be glad to see the permission granted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 421.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 27, 1878.*

THE occupation of the little island fort of Ada Kaleh on the Danube has been commented on by the Austrian papers as though it were an occurrence of much more importance than is really the case.

By the Treaty of San Stefano the Porte engaged to raze the fortress and to withdraw the garrison, but not to cede the island. Count Andrassy fearing that it might be taken possession of by the Servians after the withdrawal of the garrison, entered into negotiations for its occupation by an Austrian detachment, and notes were exchanged between him and the Turkish Ambassador. Essad Bey informed the Austrian Government that the Porte, being bound by the Treaty to withdraw the garrison, had no objection to the Turkish troops being replaced by Austrians, without, however, abandoning the rights of the Sultan, or prejudicing the decision which the European Governments may come to in regard to the provisions of the Treaty, as they may affect the Danube fortresses. In the answer of the Austrian Government no reference was made to the Treaty of San Stefano, but the rights of the Sultan were reserved; and the island cannot at present be regarded as annexed to Austria.

It is to be remarked that though the Porte has evacuated the island, it has not given execution to the engagement to destroy the works, which is deferred until the European Powers have pronounced themselves on the whole question of the Danube fortresses; the Turkish Mudir still remains on the island, and it is agreed that all questions or disputes affecting the Ottoman subjects still remaining at Ada Kaleh shall not be within the competence of the Austrian military commander, but shall be settled between the Turkish Ambassador and the Imperial Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 16.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 314.)
My Lord, *Rome, May 28, 1878.*

AS illustrative of public feeling in Italy relative to the recent policy of Her Majesty's Government in Eastern affairs, I have the honour to inclose the political bulletin in the "Opinione" of the 25th instant, accompanied by a translation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Extract from the "Opinione" of May 25, 1878.

(Translation.)

SIR S. NORTHCOTE announced in the House of Commons that the Government would present the Supplementary Vote for the Indian troops on the 27th instant, and on this occasion Mr. Cross spoke in defence of the Government. The Government was persuaded that a near and great danger was threatening the country, and that measures must be taken to avert it. To this reasoning the Opposition replied by arguments partly legal and partly Constitutional. The telegraph has informed us of the drift of most of the speeches in Parliament. Mr. Gladstone's language was very violent, but the tenor of all the speeches was the same. Legal and Constitutional considerations were opposed to the political considerations, on which the Government took their stand.

The foreign policy of a great nation such as England cannot be determined by considerations such as would decide internal policy in ordinary times. For this the law exists, and the observance of the Constitution is the fundamental principle. But foreign policy must often be withdrawn from this hard and fast rule. When extraordinary cases arise which demand, for the safety of the country, immediate and severe measures, Governments are obliged to assume the responsibility of certain acts defined by the laws, and for which they ask the assent of Parliament.

Lord Beaconsfield has assumed this sort of responsibility in summoning Indian troops to Europe. No one could be a better judge of the necessities of the Government. He has acted in the general interests of the nation, and for the maintenance of its ancient and glorious prestige, and a Parliamentary majority, the faithful and honest reflection of the wishes of the majority of the English people, has declared in his Lordship's favour.

The effects of this policy begin to be felt. England has launched into military expenses, which, although great, are not out of proportion to her means. The possibility of war has caused some uneasiness to English commerce. The agitation aroused by the Opposition has much increased the anxiety of the public. But in the end we perceive the useful results of Lord Beaconsfield's policy, which united prudence to bold resolutions. Peace is considered certain, and it will be obtained unless appearances deceive us, without sacrificing English interests or honour.

In this diplomatic phase of the Eastern Question, England has shown herself to be great and powerful. Her energy has made Russia bend to more moderate counsels. People little suspected a few months ago that a purely maritime Power was capable of exercising such action on one of the greatest Continental Powers. For some weeks past the eyes of all Europe have been fixed on London. The Greeks and Roumanians confide in the protection of England. Thence also the Turks hope for their safety; and Austria anxiously interrogates the horizon where the British Isles emerge from the ocean. England has presented herself to Russia as the defender of the interests of Europe. She assumed the representation of her own rights and of those of Western Powers without forgetting the populations of the East, which Russia had threatened to crush.

The English nation has been justly elated by this unexpected demonstration of its power, which recalls the most glorious epochs of its history. The chances of peace are all the more pleasant when compared with the great fear of war. Lord Beaconsfield's policy has had much to say to this happy state of things; and the House of Commons has approved it by rejecting Lord Hartington's motion, which aimed at a condemnation of the summons to the troops of India.

On this question the opponents of the Government showed themselves to be more numerous and stronger than might have been expected. England is the country of liberty and legality. The transport of Indian troops to Europe, which to-day is an urgent necessity of foreign policy, might, on a future occasion and under a less scrupulous Government, be renewed as a means of supporting the usurpations of the Executive Power. The minority of 226 wished to condemn an act which probably many of them acknowledge in their hearts to be opportune, but which they decline to sanction in principle, because of the precedent, of which some future Government might avail itself with very different aims.

No. 17.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 316. Confidential.)
Rome, May 28, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN I saw Count Corti yesterday, his Excellency was under the impression, from information which had reached him from various quarters, that an understanding on all the main points of difference between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Russia, in reference to the questions raised by the Treaty of San Stefano, including the laying of the Treaty, and the consent by Russia to an unrestricted discussion of all its Articles, had now been arrived at; and his Excellency stated that he was in hourly expectation of receiving the formal invitation to the Congress, which he believed would meet at Berlin on the 11th June, and which he proposed to attend in person.

In speaking of the present more pacific aspect of affairs, Count Corti did not hesitate to attribute it to the firm and decided policy lately pursued by Her Majesty's Government.

M. Cairoli will take charge of the Foreign Department during Count Corti's absence at the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 18.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 1.)

(Confidential.)
Admiralty, June 1, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Admiral Hornby, dated 31st May, 1878.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Ismid, May 31, 1878, 4·50 P.M.

FROM information I received from different sources I am led to suppose the Russians are continuing to close their forces on the Turkish lines before Constantinople.

No pretence of sanitary necessity can account for this.

No. 19.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
Athens, May 31, 1878.

I COMMUNICATED to authorized source on the 29th instant your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant.

Following is substance of answer received to day:—

After the promise given by Her Majesty's Government, both as regards the participation of Greece in the Congress, and as regards the wishes of Thessalians and Epirotes with reference to their future political state, the Greeks and Hellenes await in full confidence complete realization of promise given by a Power which is to-day justly considered as having a preponderating influence in the European concert, and as able to improve its wishes upon Turkey. A simple rectification of frontiers in Thessaly and Epirus which would cut in two the Greek element in those provinces, while realizing the wishes of one section leaves the other in its present condition, would incur risk of creating fresh causes of trouble instead of bringing about a stable pacification. It would, therefore, be desirable to know exactly what portion of those provinces Turkey would exclude from the independence of annexation (*sic*) in order to be able to appreciate the value of the arrangement to which she is apparently inclined. Consequently proposal of the Porte is awaited, the communication of which is announced as soon as expedient.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 20.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)
Belgrade, June 1, 1878.

MY Austrian colleague has confirmed to me this morning the information I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday, and added that Count Andrassy told General Ignatieff, in Vienna, on the occasion of his last visit there, that he would wish the Servians to have Pirot as compensation for Novi-Bazar, which Austrian interests would never allow of their possessing.

Prince Wrede requested me to consider this information as strictly confidential.

No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 150. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 1, 1878.

HUNGARIAN Government will allow transit of arms for the Roumanian Government, but the permission will be kept secret in order to avoid (any?) requests from other quarters.

No. 22.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1878.

PRAY reassure Count Andrassy as to "Globe," which is quite misinformed.

English opinion will not permit us to contend for the unrestricted liberty of Ottoman troops in region of Batak and Tatar-Bazardjik, but we hold ourselves perfectly free to contend that Porte should have such military hold over southern province as shall secure its political supremacy and strategic security. We count fully on Count Andrassy's earnest co-operation in this contention at Congress.

No. 23.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1878.

INVITATION from Germany to Congress has been accepted for 11th. Lord Beaconsfield, your Excellency, and myself will be the Plenipotentiaries.

No. 24.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1878.

IS there any chance of pursuing negotiations for territorial arrangement between Turkey and Greece?

If you can urge it safely as regards your own influence, it is a matter of the utmost importance to future peace of Porte. Greece cannot be kept quiet without some satisfaction of this kind; if it be refused, either King will be dethroned or he must yield to current, and in either case there will be a renewal of agitations, repressions, atrocities, and crusades, which will destroy all hope of that repose which is essential to enable Porte to heal wounds inflicted by the war. England has no interest in matter except to give Porte time and opportunity to become strong, but we are convinced it is most dangerous to leave matter unsettled.

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Secret.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington relative to a project said to be entertained by General Beale, late United States' Minister at Vienna, for the fitting out of a cruiser at San Francisco under the Russian flag.

As it appears from Sir E. Thornton's despatch that you are well acquainted with General Beale, I should be glad if you could favour me with any information you may be able to furnish in regard to the movements and proceedings of that gentleman.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 26.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1878, 10 P.M.

DO not communicate telegram of this evening till further notice.

No. 27.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord, *Washington, May* 20, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd instant, recorded in your despatch No. 79 of the same day, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum relative to the ships mentioned in that telegram, containing observations with regard to them, derived from the United States' Shipping List. It is therein shown that there are no vessels in the United States' merchant marine corresponding to those named in the above-mentioned telegram.

Neither is there any such vessel in the American list as the "Flashing Light," mentioned in the telegram of the 29th ultimo to your Lordship from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Cairo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Memorandum.

"*Simrock*," 1,810 *tons*.—NO such vessel in list of United States' merchant-vessels. There are several "Shamrocks," the largest being a sailing-vessel, barque-rigged, 660·90 tons, from New York, N. Y.

"*Hawk*," 1,600 *tons*.—The following are the vessels in the list of that name, viz.:—

1. A paddle-steamer, 141·28 tons, from Pittsburg, Pa.
2. A paddle-steamer, 11·56 tons, from Parkersburg, W. Va.
3. A canal-boat, 65·45 tons, from Georgetown, D. C.

(The latter vessel is unrigged.)

"*Charleston*," 1,600 *tons*.—The only vessel of that name on the list is the following, viz.:—

A paddle-steamer, 1,227·06 tons, from New York, N. Y. Official No., 5,433. Signal letters, J. C. F. N.

"*Freedom*," 1,600 *tons*.—The following are the vessels of that name in the list, viz.:—

Unrigged—
1. A canal-boat, 54·25 tons, from Troy, N. Y.
2. A canal-boat, 33·16 tons, from Girard, Pa.

Sailing-vessels—
3. A schooner, 67·78 tons, from Chicago, Ill.
4. A schooner, 47·90 tons, from Gloucester, Mass.
5. A schooner, 43·26 tons, from Machias, Me.
6. A schooner, 34·20 tons, from Swan Island, Mo.
7. A sloop, 932·87 tons, from New York, N. Y. Official No., 9,411. Signal letters, H. G. R. P.

"*The Flashing Light*."—No such vessel in list, either under "The Flashing Light" or "Flashing Light."

No. 28.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 147.)

Washington, May 20, 1878.

My Lord,

THERE is now no doubt that the steamer "State of California" has been purchased for the Russian Government, though ostensibly she has been sold to Mr. Barker, an American, who was banker for the Russian Commission during the Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876.

The vessel was launched on the 16th instant. The day after, men began to make alterations in her, taking down cabins on deck and other work which had already been completed. Orders have been given to place the galley between decks; it was to have been on the upper deck. The railing all round the sides of the ship is to be replaced by heavy iron plates about three feet high. About 300 men are employed on her, and are at work night and day, there being two sets of workmen. It is supposed that she will be ready for sea in about three weeks.

I have written to the Admiral commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the Atlantic station, informing him of the above facts.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a list of steamers which has been forwarded to me by Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco. Mr. Booker informs me that the "City of Sydney," which was to sail for New Zealand and Australia on the 13th instant, was sold very recently, and with great secrecy, to the Panamá Railway Company for 1 dollar. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company, who are the owners, refused to give any information about the sale, but Mr. Booker saw the deed of sale, which was shown to him by the Collector of the Port. It is strongly suspected that she may really have been sold to Russian agents; that she will have sailed on the 13th instant, as advertized; and that she will be transferred after arriving at her destination. The mail line will not be deranged by such a transfer, for the Company have four ships engaged in the service, for which three would be sufficient; at present each ship remains nearly six weeks in Sydney, and seventeen or eighteen days in San Francisco. I understand that the service is now a joint one between the Pacific Mail Company and Messrs. Elder and Co., of Glasgow, so that an arrangement would have to be made with the latter before the transfer could be completed.

In the inclosed list your Lordship will observe the "Sofia." Mr. Booker states that her owner gives out that two Governments are offering for her, though he declines to say who they are. They may be the Governments of Costa Rica and Guatemala; but possibly one of them is the Russian Government. Mr. Booker adds that she would be a most useful vessel as a cruizer, as she would carry a good-sized gun, and burns very little coal. Her speed, however, seems to be not great, being only eight knots.

As yet the only purchase which seems positively to have been effected is that of the "State of California."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 28.

List of Ships belonging to the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company.

Name.	Tonnage.	Speed.	Screw or Side Wheel.	Build.	Remarks.
		Knots.			
Alaska	4012	8	Side wheel..	Wood, 1868	In Panama trade.
Constitution.. ..	3575	8	" ..	" 1861	Laid up and useless, without great expense.
City of Panama ..	1490	10	Screw ..	Iron, 1873	In Victoria trade.
Costa Rica	1467	7	" ..	" 1863	In Central American trade.
China	3836	8	Side wheel..	Wood, 1867	In China trade.
City of Tokio ..	5080	15	Screw ..	Iron, 1874	Ditto.
City of Peking ..	5080	15	" ..	" 1874	Ditto.
Colima	2906	12	" ..	" 1873	In Panama trade.
City of New York ..	3020	15	" ..	" 1875	In Australian mail service.
Dakota	2135	10	Side wheel..	Wood, 1866	In Victoria trade.
Georgia	1937	8	Screw ..	Iron, 1873	In Panama trade.
Granada	2572	10	" ..	" 1873	Ditto.
South Carolina ..	2099	8	" ..	" 1865	Ditto.
Salvator	1056	8	" ..	" 1862	In Central American trade.
Wilmington ..	941	8	" ..	" 1865	Ditto.
Colorado	3726	10	Side wheel..	Wood, 1865	Laid up, and not of much value.
City of Sydney ..	3020	15	Screw ..	Iron, 1875	Australian trade. Just sold to Panama Railway Company for 1 dollar.

Belonging to Goodall, Perkins, and Company.

Active	1541	8	Side wheel..	Wood, 1868	In coast trade.
Constantine	492	7	Screw ..	Iron, 1864	Ditto.
Gipsy	168	6	" ..	Wood ..	Ditto.
Idaho	1077	9	" ..	" 1866	Ditto.
Los Angeles ..	498	8	" ..	" 1866	Ditto.
Mohongo	1331	7	Side wheel..	Iron, 1864	Laid up, formerly United States' gun-boat.
Monterey	194	9	Screw ..	Wood ..	In coast trade.
Orizaba	2335	8	Side wheel..	" 1864	Ditto.
Senator	1012	7	" ..	" 1863	Ditto.
Salinas	149	6	Screw ..	" 1848	Ditto.
San Vincente ..	146	5	" ..	" 1848	Ditto.
Santa Cruz	511	6	" ..	" 1845	Ditto.
San Luis	319	6	" ..	" 1846	Laid up.
Victoria	313	6	" ..	Iron ..	Ditto.

Belonging to Oregon Steam-ship Company.

City of Chester ..	1108	8	Screw ..	Iron, 1874	In Oregon trade.
Geo. W. Elder ..	1710	10	" ..	" 1874	Ditto.
John L. Stephens ..	1837	7	Side wheel..	Wood, 1852	Laid up, and of very little value.
Oridamme	1082	7	" ..	" 1852	Laid up.
Oregon	2336	12	Screw ..	Iron, 1875	Just arrived from builders in New York, a very fine ship.

Belonging to Alaska Commercial Company.

Alexander	295	7	Screw ..	Wood, 1855	In Alaska trade.
St. Paul	683	8	" ..	" 1875	Ditto.

Belonging to F. Barnard.

Arcata	220	6	Screw ..	Wood ..	In coast trade.
Gussie Telfair ..	410	9	" ..	Iron ..	Ditto.

Belonging to J. J. Wright.

Olympia	493	7	Side wheel..	Wood ..	Laid up, and under repair.
William Taber ..	974	7	" ..	" 1859	Laid up.

Belonging to John Roach, Pennsylvania.

Ajax	1355	7	Screw ..	Wood, 1864	Laid up.

Belonging to P. B. Cornwall.

Name.	Tonnage.	Speed.	Screw or Side Wheel.	Build.	Remarks.
California	674	Knots. 7	Screw ..	Wood, 1864	In coast trade.

Belonging to R. B. Chandler.

Empire	732	6	Screw ..	Wood ..	Collier.

Belonging to Searles and Stone.

Humboldt	389	6	Screw ..	Wood ..	In coast trade.

Belonging to John Birmingham.

Newbern	943	7	Screw ..	Wood, 1862	In Mexican trade.

Belonging to F. P. and J. A. Hooper.

Newport	165	6	Screw ..	Wood ..	Collier.

Belonging to — Mulloy.

Sofia	236	8	Screw ..	Wood ..	A yacht, built by White, Cowes; for sale, a very handy vessel.
Great Republic ..	3882	8	Side wheel..	Wood, 1866	Sold, and, it is said, is to have her engines taken out.

No. 29.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Washington, May 20, 1878.*

With reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose some additional articles which have appeared in American newspapers respecting the duty of the United States' Government with regard to the purchase and arming of steamers in this country by Russian Agents, with a view to using them as cruizers against our commerce in the event of war.

The inclosed article from the "Tribune" of the 15th instant, recommends the Government to throw more light upon its interpretation of the neutrality laws with regard to the declared intention of Russian officers to fit out cruizers in this country.

The "New York Herald" of the same day advises that all United States' vessels of war should be called home for the purpose of keeping the police of United States' ports, and preventing violations of neutrality.

The "World" asks how it will be if cruizers are fitted out in United States' ports with a present intention to use them eventually in war against a nation with which the United States are at peace.

An important article in the same paper of the next day lays great stress upon the intention with which such vessels are being fitted out, and insists that the President has a right and is empowered to prevent the equipment of vessels of war and their sailing from United States' ports even in time of peace.

On the next day the "World" had another article, insisting that the Russian Minister should be called upon to explain what Russia and her Agents intend to do in this country, and that it is a criminal act to fit out a vessel with intent that it should be used in the service of Russia to commit hostilities against any nation with which the United States are at peace.

An article in the "World" of the 18th instant combats an expression of opinion attributed to Mr. Adams, formerly Minister to England, who is reported to have said

that Russia had a perfect right to purchase ships, and as long as they were not fitted out and manned as vessels of war with American men and arms during a state of war, the United States had no right to interfere with their movements. With this opinion is contrasted that of Mr. Cushing, who stated that the criminal laws of the United States were of constant force in time of peace as well as in time of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Newspaper Extracts.

No. 30.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 150. Secret.)
My Lord, *Washington, May 21, 1878.*

I HAVE just learnt that the steamer "Columbus," which till now has been on the line between New York and Havana, has been sold to Russian agents. She was suddenly taken off the line, and sent to Philadelphia for alterations. Although she was reported to be bringing an assorted cargo, she arrived empty at that city, and went direct to Cramp's ship-yard. She is in no need of repairs as a trading ship, but work is to be commenced upon her at once, the plans having been prepared by the Russian engineer in New York, where she was sold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 31.

Mr. Fraser to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Peking, May 27, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th instant, the Chinese Government decline to sell their gunboats; but will give us the refusal of them if they ever contemplate doing so.

No. 32.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 2, 1878.*

I SHOULD be much obliged if your Lordship would enable me to give Count Andrassy early information whether you propose to attend Congress in person.

No. 33.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 1, 1878.*

Mr. CALVERT, of Adrianople, writes on 30th ultimo, that a Russian attack on the insurgents on the whole line of the valley of the Arda commenced on the 28th ultimo. It had continued two days. Russians had obtained an advantage at the village of Mangouf, but at all other points the insurgents hold their ground, and had assumed the offensive at two places.

No. 34.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. .) *Therapia, June 2, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)
TWO telegrams dated yesterday evening received, one (relating to?) Greece, the other to Congress; which am I to communicate?

No. 35.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, June 2, 1878.*
STEAMER "Saratoga," mentioned in inclosure in my despatch No. 112 of the 29th April, has been purchased by Russian Agents, and her conversion into a cruizer will be began at once.

No. 36.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. .) *Berlin, June 2, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)
ANOTHER attempt on the life of the Emperor has been made this afternoon, by a man firing from a window of a house Unter den Linden. His Majesty has been struck in three places on the temple and on the arm, but it is hoped not dangerously. The assassin attempted to commit suicide. Public indignation is at its height.

No. 37.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1878, 11 P.M.*
HER Majesty's Government desire you to express to Minister for Foreign Affairs the horror with which the English nation has heard of the atrocious attempt on the Emperor's life, and their earnest hope for his speedy recovery.

No. 38.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1878, 11 P.M.*
CONGRESS will meet at Berlin on the 13th. Lord Beaconsfield and I shall attend.

No. 39.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 429.) *Vienna, May 28, 1878.*
My Lord,
IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 315, I have the honour to inform you that inquiries instituted by the Austrian Government into the reports of the execution of Poles by the Russian troops not only failed to corroborate them, but led to the conclusion that, although Poles may possibly have been killed by the troops during their advance, none had been executed by the military Commanders.

About two months ago a Vienna newspaper published a circumstantial account of the execution at Sofia of six or seven Polish doctors, whose names were given with minute details, but after the experience of the manner in which stories of atrocities

were fabricated during the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection and since that time, I abstained from forwarding the account to your Lordship till I had endeavoured to ascertain its truth. Having satisfied myself that, though directed against a different party, it belonged to that category of sensational horrors which are so greedily accepted by those who have a taste for them, I did not bring the article under the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 428.) *Vienna, May 29, 1878.*
My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to inclose a Report by Colonel Wellesley upon the subject of Russian military preparations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Colonel Wellesley to Sir H. Elliot.

Vienna, May 29, 1878.
Sir,
THE following military and naval information respecting Russia has reached me in a private letter from St. Petersburgh.

Orders have been given for the formation of seven new reserve divisions of infantry and of seven reserve brigades of artillery.

This addition to the military forces of Russia will be completed in about two months.

There will thus be eighteen reserve divisions of infantry and seventeen reserve brigades of artillery in the Russian army, exclusive of field troops.

The model battalion has been formed into a regiment of 4,000 men by the enlistment of recruits.

The third section of Don Cossacks, that is, the regiments numbered from 41 to 60 (twenty regiments), have been mobilized.

About ten days ago seven regiments of Orenburg Cossacks were formed.

The 1st Division of Grenadiers, which was in the Caucasus during the war, has arrived at Odessa, and remains there until further orders.

Field-Marshal Prince Baratinsky arrived at St. Petersburgh about a week ago, and it is supposed that he has been summoned to attend the Councils of War.

On the 15th instant the iron-clads "Petropavlosk" and "Prince Pojarsky," with the clipper "Djigite," put to sea, it is supposed for the Pacific.

The entire Baltic fleet is nearly ready for sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY.

No. 41.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 430.) *Vienna, May 31, 1878.*
My Lord,
COUNT ANDRASSY informed the Delegations on the 28th instant that the Government had desired the Financial Department to take the necessary steps towards an immediate application to military purposes of a portion of the 60,000,000 credit.

In the statement made on this occasion by his Excellency, of which I inclose a French *résumé*, he reminds the Delegations that when the Government asked for this credit they explained that the money would not be used until absolutely required. That time had now arrived, for even if the Congress led to happy results, it would still be necessary for Austria-Hungary to take certain military measures, because then only

the moment would have arrived for "realising on the eastern frontiers of the Monarchy a transformation of existing political conditions, and complications might thereupon arise that would affect the special interests of Austria-Hungary notwithstanding the understanding arrived at among the European Powers." If, on the other hand, the Congress failed to bring about the results hoped for, then more than ever must the Monarchy be prepared for immediate action.

The Delegations would not expect the Government to give any detailed explanations as to the military movements which might be contemplated, but it would occur to the minds of everybody that the forces in Dalmatia and Transylvania must be strengthened, and that generally towards the frontier energetic measures must be taken to ensure the military communications, which, owing to the absence of fortresses, can only be done by concentrating troops at certain points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Count Andrassy's Speech to the Delegations, May 28, 1878.

DANS la séance tenue hier par les deux Délégations, le Comte Andrassy, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a fait l'exposé suivant de la situation :—

"Le Gouvernement a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance des Délégations que le Ministère commun s'est adressé aux Ministres des Finances des deux moitiés de la Monarchie pour la couverture du crédit alloué, et que le Gouvernement compte employer effectivement une partie de ce crédit. Nous avons fait en son temps un exposé complet des motifs qui militent en faveur de l'allocation du crédit. L'état de choses qu'on avait représenté alors comme nécessitant le crédit n'était autre que celui qui détermine aujourd'hui le Gouvernement à en demander l'application.

"Le Gouvernement devait demander la couverture de la somme allouée, et son emploi partiel précisément lorsqu'il serait démontré que l'on touche au moment décisif où la crise doit amener la réunion d'un Congrès ou donner naissance à de nouveaux conflits.

"Quoiqu'il en soit de la solution à intervenir, on ne saurait en aucun cas différer plus longtemps l'exécution des mesures militaires rigoureusement nécessaires.

"La Monarchie ne saurait se créer ou adopter une situation qui nous mettrait dans la dépendance morale de l'une ou de l'autre des Puissances coïntéressées. Ces Etats ont fait les plus grands sacrifices pour la sauvegarde de leurs intérêts, et la Monarchie Austro-Hongroise ne peut, qu'il y ait Congrès ou non, se produire que comme un facteur ayant des droits égaux, une Puissance égale. Dans le cas où le Congrès amènerait une entente commune des Puissances Européennes, nous aurions besoin de prendre certaines mesures militaires parce qu'alors seulement le moment serait venu de réaliser à notre frontière la transformation de toutes les conditions politiques existantes, et que dans un pareil cas il pourrait naître des complications qui, même après l'accord intervenu touchant les intérêts généraux de l'Europe, seraient de nature à mettre en question nos intérêts spéciaux. Si, d'un autre côté, le Congrès ne créait pas l'entente désirée, nous aurions besoin de ces mesures afin de pouvoir prendre position suivant les événements.

"Le Gouvernement ne peut donner que des renseignements généraux sur les mesures militaires pour l'application desquelles on doit employer une partie du crédit alloué. Il est convaincu, d'ailleurs, qu'on ne lui demandera pas d'entrer dans les détails. Ce sont des mesures qui sont jugées nécessaires au point de vue de la responsabilité militaire. Elles ont pour but de renforcer les troupes Austro-Hongroises partout où, en restant sur le pied de paix, elles ne pourraient pas répondre aux exigences du présent ou de l'avenir, notamment en Dalmatie et en Transylvanie ; il s'agit en outre de tenir prêts quelques corps de troupes qui seraient dirigés suivant l'occurrence sur les points où besoin en serait ; et, comme l'Autriche-Hongrie est de tous les autres Etats celui qui possède à sa frontière le moins de points fortifiés, il s'agirait de mettre en état de défense certaines positions tout en pourvoyant en ce que, dans le cas d'une entrée en campagne, nos communications soient fortement assurées.

"Quant au but politique visé par le Gouvernement, il est exactement le même que celui qu'il a toujours eu en vue depuis l'origine. Bien convaincu que les questions soulevées par la guerre ne pouvaient recevoir de solution pacifique autrement que par une entente Européenne, le Gouvernement a pris l'initiative de la convocation du

Congrès. A l'époque de la dernière Session des Délégations, le Traité Préliminaire de San Stefano n'était pas encore connu. Ce Traité ayant été publié ultérieurement, il en est résulté des différends qui ont été suivis de négociations entre quelques Puissances, et la réunion du Congrès a paru mise en question pendant quelque temps.

"Aujourd'hui il y a une plus grande probabilité que le Congrès pourra se réunir prochainement.

"Après comme avant, le Gouvernement déclare, que ses efforts au sein du Congrès tendront à assurer le maintien de la paix Européenne, tout en poursuivant énergiquement la sauvegarde des intérêts Austro-Hongrois comme aussi ceux de l'Europe en général. Le Gouvernement avait fait connaître cette ligne politique avant la publication du Traité Préliminaire de San Stefano, il ne s'en départira point aujourd'hui.

"Le Gouvernement, considérant que la situation sur laquelle il base actuellement la demande de l'allocation du crédit est aujourd'hui la même qu'avant, et qu'en outre sa politique n'a subi aucune modification, invite la Délégation à vouloir bien prendre acte des communications par lesquelles le Gouvernement annonce qu'il a recours à un emploi partiel du crédit voté le 21 Mars dernier en prévision de la nécessité d'opérer un déploiement de forces militaires."

Sur la proposition du Délégué Suess, cet exposé est renvoyé à la Commission du Budget.

No. 42.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 434. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 31, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship will read with interest the despatches from Mr. Monson, which I forward by this messenger. Your Lordship will find in them the confirmation of what I have more than once reported, of the endeavour of the Austro-Hungarian Government to justify their own inaction by unworthily insinuating that they had been prevented from adopting a more vigorous policy by the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to join in it. That insinuations to this effect had been made to individual members of the Hungarian Parliament I had no doubt, but Mr. Monson has been positively informed that they were put forward by Count Andrassy at a secret sitting of the Delegations.

For such a proceeding, if it took place, neither excuse nor palliation is possible; but while the feelings of Count Andrassy, as a Hungarian, would certainly have inclined him to adopt a policy more worthy of a great Empire than that which he has followed, it is not difficult to find explanations of his hesitation.

In the first line must, of course, be placed the sentiments and views which guide the Emperor and the Court party; and in the second comes an equally formidable difficulty in the necessity of satisfying two independent Councils of Ministers, and two independent representative bodies, whose tendencies are seldom in strict harmony with each other, and often directly at variance. It is natural that in Hungary sufficient allowance should not be made for this difficulty; but it is sufficiently exemplified by the fact that while the financial measures proposed with a view to military preparations were adopted by the Hungarian Chambers a fortnight ago, the Government have hitherto failed in getting their acceptance by the Austrian Reichsrath. The explanations given by the Government to satisfy the Chambers of one portion of the realm are apt at once to have the effect of producing hesitation and distrust in the other.

Your Lordship will perceive from Mr. Monson's despatch No. 48, that the wish of the Hungarian Opposition is not for the establishment of such an understanding between the British and Austro-Hungarian Governments as will insure at a Congress concessions from Russia on the most objectionable parts of the Treaty of San Stefano, but for an alliance in a war which shall cripple her power.

Count Albert Apponyi, one of the leaders of the Hungarian Opposition, whom I have just seen, stated the views of his party very explicitly. They hold that no modification of the Treaty of San Stefano can be made which will not leave Russia with an immensely increased preponderance in Turkey, and with the power of carrying out her policy of destruction at a future time. Even if the frontier of the new Bulgaria were to be drawn along the Balkans, while Russia was permitted to

recover Bessarabia, and the Turkish fortresses were razed, the Ottoman Empire in Europe would be doomed to fall under Russian dominion, and it is only by a war that England and Austria can now avert that result; and Count Apponyi looked forward with apprehension to the arrival of news of concessions having been made by Russia which would satisfy our two Governments.

There are few persons who will not agree with Count Apponyi, that no attainable modifications of the Treaty of San Stefano will have the full effect of counterbalancing its evil consequences, but there are certainly in England fewer still who would be prepared, like the Hungarian Opposition, to go deliberately into a war with the avowed object of reducing the strength of Russia, and if the close understanding with Her Majesty's Government, which that party has put forward as its creed, is to be based upon the principle advocated by Count Apponyi, I cannot believe that it would be desirable for us to give it any encouragement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 43.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 3.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 22, 1878.*

M. TISZA said to me yesterday that he was quite of opinion that it would be essential for Roumania to enter into the closest possible connection with Hungary, if she hoped to be able in the future to avoid becoming the vassal of Russia. He added that ten years ago he was at Bucharest, and that he then told every Roumanian statesman whose acquaintance he made that their policy should be directed to the establishment of the most intimate relations with Hungary. "Now," said M. Tisza, "they begin to see on which side their true interests lie, and profess that they have always had the greatest anxiety to be our good friends; but they are such an untrustworthy set of people that we cannot be sure that they will not again side with Russia."

I answered that, from all that I heard, I thought that there was not much danger of that for the moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 44.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 3.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 24, 1878.*

M. BALATCHANO, the Roumanian Agent, told me this morning that he had spoken to M. Tisza about the free transit through Hungary of the arms purchased in England for Roumania; and that the Hungarian Prime Minister had explained that, although he was personally willing to grant the permission, difficulties had arisen at the Foreign Office at Vienna, and that he had not yet been able to come to an arrangement with Count Andrassy.

M. Balatchano had been told at Vienna by Count Andrassy that it was the Hungarian Government that raised difficulties; and he did not know which party he was to believe.

I could not help remarking that I thought it not improbable that M. Balatchano had heard the strict truth upon the subject neither at Vienna nor at Buda.

M. Balatchano, however, seemed to think that it was really M. Tisza who was the cause of the difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 45.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 3.)

(No. 43.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 25, 1878.*

I AM informed by Mr. Vice-Consul Faber that the German Government has obtained permission to export the torpedoes ordered by them at Mr. Whitehead's factory at Fiume.

This permission has elicited a protest from the Portuguese Government that there is no reason why the torpedoes ordered for Portugal should be detained if those for Germany are exported.

The French Government has also asked permission to export 100 torpedoes.

Mr. Faber further informs me that he was mistaken as to the two torpedoes captured from the Russians by the Turks, and now in Mr. Whitehead's possession; for it seems that the Porte, far from having been a sufferer in the transaction, has made a decidedly good bargain, having arranged with Mr. Whitehead that the two torpedoes are to be put in repair, and, with three others, are to be sent, gratis, to Constantinople, on the understanding that the Turks are to be fully initiated into the secret, but are not to divulge it to anyone else.

Two officers in the Turkish service (one being an Englishman) are now at Fiume to study the invention, and to receive the five torpedoes when ready.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 46.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 3.)

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch which I have this day received from Mr. Vice-Consul Faber, respecting the exportation to Germany of torpedoes from Mr. Whitehead's factory at Fiume.

Mr. Faber reports also the exportation in the month of April of several cases of tools and pumps on account of the Russian Government.

Since writing that despatch, however, Mr. Faber appears to have ascertained that on the 19th April forty-four packages, containing twenty-two torpedoes, did actually leave Fiume for Friederics-ort, near Kiel; but these torpedoes were those ordered by the German Government. There are as many now remaining at Fiume, belonging to Germany.

Since the 16th instant the prohibition has been extended to pumps and all machinery without exception.

Mr. Faber assures me that the foregoing information is authentic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Faber to Mr. Monson.

Fiume, May 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, and beg to report as follows:—

The forty-four torpedoes taken delivery of by the German Government, previous to the total prohibition of the exportation of torpedoes on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government, were affected by the said prohibition, not having been expedited at the time the prohibition was enacted, although permission to export them had been in the hands of the German Government since the 15th April (see my despatch of the 2nd instant to Sir H. Elliot.

Diplomatic steps were at once taken by the German Government to set aside the prohibition in respect to the forty-four torpedoes on the plea that the permission once granted could not be revoked by a general order of the prohibition of the exportation.

These steps have proved successful, and the renewal of the permission to the German Government to export these forty-four torpedoes was received here on or about the 18th instant, and the said torpedoes were sent off by rail from this place on the 19th and 20th instant, certainly not previous to the 19th instant, their destination being Berlin.

From what I can ascertain, several cases of pumps and tools were forwarded hence for account of the Russian Government about a month since, their destination being Berlin, and ultimately probably Kiel; these may possibly be the cases in question.

The fact can easily be verified by the dimensions of the cases.

If coming direct from Messrs. Whitehead's factory in original cases, each torpedo is packed in two separate cases, the one being about 9 feet 6 inches, and the other about 6 feet in length, both cases being about 10 feet square.

Pumps and tools are packed in all kinds of cases of various shapes and dimensions.

Torpedo-guns (launching apparatus) occupy long cases, of which the dimensions are about 3 feet square and 20 feet or more in length, occupying two ordinary railway trucks.

The permission for exportation has not yet been extended to any other countries which have torpedoes lying here ready, or in course of delivery. These are:—

25 torpedoes for Russia, 10 for Portugal, ready. 100 torpedoes for France, 5 for Turkey, now being delivered.

The Portuguese have, as I hear, protested in consequence of the permission granted to Germany.

Air-pumps and tools are not affected by the general prohibition of the exportation of torpedoes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. L. FABER.

No. 47.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 3.)

(No. 47.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 30, 1878.*

I LEARNED the other day from a Hungarian nobleman owning large estates in Transylvania which he had recently visited, that the defensive works ordered by the Government are being prosecuted in that province with great energy. Thirty companies of engineers are said to be engaged in the construction of forts, and arrangements are being perfected with the railway administration for the rapid conveyance of troops.

The same gentleman informed me that throughout Hungary the preliminary measures for securing horses for Government service had already been taken. Inspectors have selected such horses as they find suitable for the artillery, cavalry, and transport service. The indemnity to be paid to the owners is fixed, and warning has been given that the animals must be forthcoming the moment the requisition is presented. The law on this point is very strict, and exemptions are only made in favour of breeding stock. Thus, my informant assured me that four of his best horses had been selected at prices which represent only one-fourth of their value.

The only actual military movement of a decisive kind yet made by the troops on the Hungarian frontier has been the occupation of the Island of Ada Kaleh by a detachment from the garrison at Orsova. The details of this occupation will doubtless have been officially reported to your Excellency by the Military Attaché of the Embassy. The measure has provoked but little comment here, where it is regarded as a simple military necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 48.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 3.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 30, 1878.*

THE telegraphic reports of the success of Count Schouvaloff's mission to St. Petersburgh in inducing the Czar to make such concessions as will facilitate an understanding between England and Russia, have not, I am bound to declare, been received with enthusiasm by any portion of the public here. The Government organs in the press profess nearly as much dissatisfaction at the present situation as do the journals of the Opposition. It will be perfectly useless for Count Andrassy to claim any credit for his diplomacy. Even if the Congress meets, and its deliberations have a pacific result, no one here will be in the least deceived as to the value of Austro-Hungarian co-operation in securing such a consummation. It is true that the supporters of the Government are always inclined to make some excuse for the impotency of Count Andrassy's policy, on the score of the difficulties of his position as affected originally by the Court and the Slav influencies, and latterly by the opposition raised at Vienna to the granting of the 60,000,000. But these excuses are not plenary, and those who make them are clearly convinced that the Minister has not displayed that energy, foresight, and consistency of purpose which would have maintained for the Empire the credit of having contributed all the weight of her influence to the realisation of a diplomatic arrangement.

Further than this, it must be noted that all the organs of the press are careful to argue that no assurance has yet been given that interests exclusively Austro-Hungarian will be protected, either by the concessions already made by Russia, or by the projects which the Congress may entertain. Count Andrassy's new explanations to the Delegations are not regarded as encouraging upon this head. His Excellency's intimation that the result of the deliberations of the Congress may necessitate material action on the part of the Empire is taken as a proof, either of his own apprehensions, that he will be unable to secure the interests of the country by Treaty, or of his determination that the outcome of the Congress, with regard to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, shall be, in one way or another, the annexation of those Provinces to the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Count Andrassy, however, is so far lucky that the preliminary negotiations for the meeting of the Plenipotentiaries of the Great Powers next month will save him from a bitter attack which was threatened by some of the members of the Hungarian Delegation, and he will undoubtedly make such capital as he can out of the fact that, after all, his original idea of a Congress is to be realized.

As for the public at large I am constrained to say that, as far as I can judge by general conversation, there is profound disappointment at the notion that the Czar has made large concessions. It would be useless to deny that the Magyars have been anticipating with eagerness the possibility of aiding in thrusting back Russia to the other side of the Dniester, and crippling her power of making mischief for at least a quarter of a century.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 49.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Jassy, May 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, a further statement which has been privately furnished me regarding the sick in the Russian hospitals, in continuation of the return sent in my despatch No. 14 of 26th ultimo; the return is not so complete as I would wish, and the numbers as regards the Turkish sick are evidently unreliable. I, however, forward the return, which I only procured to-day, as it shows that typhus still exists to a serious extent. There have been but few cases of this disease amongst the population here.

Russian sick continue to pass through, one or two trains arriving here daily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

Inclosure in No. 49.

RETURN for the Russian Field Hospital No. 45, stationed at Jassy, from the 1st to the 20th April, old style, that is, the 13th April to the 2nd May, 1878.

	Russians.	Turks.
In hospital on 1st April	529	11
Admitted to 20th April	411	2?
Total	940	13?
How disposed of—		
Discharged cured	174	7
Moved to other hospitals	115	6
Died	30	?
In hospital on 20th April (2nd May)	621	13
Total	940	27?
Nature of disease of those in hospital on 20th April—		
Fever and ague	113	2
Typhus	271	4
Small-pox	1	..
Syphilis	61	..
Eye affections	7	..
Various	163	6
Wounds	6	1
Total	621	13

The figures furnished me regarding the Turkish sick are evidently erroneous.

Jassy, May 19, 1878.

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM, *Her Majesty's Vice-Consul.*

No. 50.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 97. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, May* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying map, illustrating the chief strategical lines on which the Russian Military Commanders would have to rely in case of hostilities breaking out in this country.

In 1877, the Russians have constructed a railway from Galatz to Bender, which has proved extremely useful to them. Gradually as dependence on the neutrality of Austria-Hungary is diminishing the line of the River Sereth is looked upon as the first line of defence of the Russian army, the Pruth being the second, and the Dniester the third line.

On that supposition, Fokshani and Reni are considered important strategical centres.

The line between Falczi, on the Pruth, and Byrlad, has been surveyed by Russian Military Engineers, and I understand that it could be constructed in six weeks, whilst I am assured that a railway between Buzen and Tekucz could be made in a still shorter time.

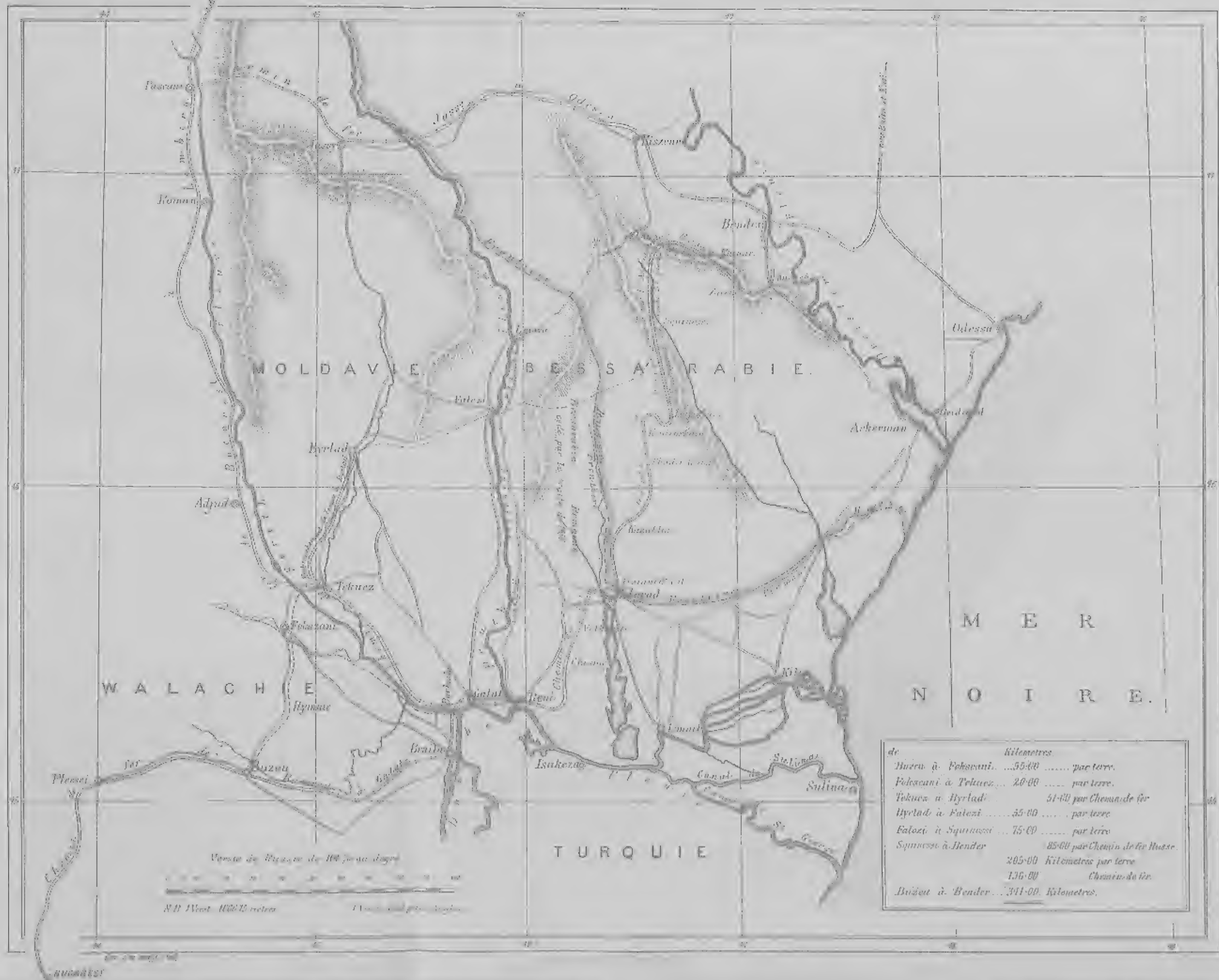
Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz alludes to an intention of connecting Byrlad with Cahul by railway, and confirms the news of Fokshani being fortified.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Map demonstrating New Projected Strategical Railways in Roumania.


MOLDAVIE
BESSARABIE
WALACHIE
TURQUIE
MER NOIRE.
Pascani
Roman
Jassy
Kiszenev
Bender
Odessa
Ackerman
Byrlad
Adjud
Tekuez
Fokszani
Hymnie
Buzeu
Braila
Isakcza
Sulina
Pleesci
Bucarest
Kilometres
de
Buzeu à Fokszani ... 55·00 ..... par terre.
Fokszani à Tekuez ... 20·00 ..... par terre.
Tekuez à Byrlad ... 51·00 par Chemin de fer
Byrlad à Falezi ..... 55·00 ..... par terre
Falezi à Squinossi ... 75·00 ..... par terre
Squinossi à Bender ... 85·00 par Chemin de fer Russe.
205·00 Kilometres par terre
136·00 Chemin de fer.
Buzeu à Bender ... 341·00 Kilometres.

No. 51.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 3.*)

(No. 99. Political. Secret.)

Bucharest, May 24, 1878.

My Lord,

ALL the information which reaches me either from Her Majesty's Consular Officers or indirectly from Roumanian authorities confirms the fact that the Russians are constantly moving in different directions, but principally to Bulgaria, bodies of troops consisting of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, as also of regiments of Cossacks. Their military activity in other respects is likewise very considerable.

Their principal aim, besides filling up the important gaps in their Bulgarian garrisons, appears to be to prepare a very strong barrier for the mouth of the Danube, and this is confirmed by Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz, who has likewise reported the works being carried out at Soulina.

There are likewise indications of an intention to strengthen and arm Rustchuk, where heavy guns are being conveyed from the depôt at Fratesti, and if Russia had succeeded in obtaining possession of Shumla and Varna, it was probably her desire to prepare for the defence of the Quadrilateral against all comers.

In Wallachia a line of defence appears to be prepared by Russia from Galatz to Fokshani, probably keeping in sight the possibility of Austrian action; for that purpose surveys are being made of strategical positions commanding the mountain passes on the Austrian route, and a short line of railway from Byrlad to Falezi is spoken of; this, I am told, might be completed in six weeks.

The Roumanian Government, on the other hand, appears hitherto to resist all suggestions recommending disarmament, and has even called under arms 18,000 recruits; the position its troops have taken is one of armed neutrality, which will compel Russia either to keep a considerable corps of observation, or to attempt a disarmament of the Roumanian army by force, even at the risk of alarming Austria.

The Prince of Roumania is away from Bucharest inspecting his army just at the moment when the greatest uncertainty prevails as to the future; his Ministers have made unofficial overtures for English assistance in the shape of arms, &c., to which, naturally, I can give neither encouragement nor anything but an evasive reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 52.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 3.*)

(No. 100. Political.)

Bucharest, May 24, 1878.

My Lord,

THERE is in Roumania a strong powerful opposition to the present Government, consisting of representatives of the landed gentry and other influential classes, but somehow or other they are in a minority in the Chambers.

The leaders of the Opposition lay upon the Ministers the entire blame for the existing differences with Russia, and they say that these are entirely due to their mismanagement.

It is difficult from their language to arrive at any conclusion as to the line of policy which they would adopt with regard to Bessarabia were they to succeed in displacing the present Government; but two gentlemen of some influence—General Floresco and M. Kretzulesco—have given publicity to their personal views in two pamphlets called "Reflexions," &c., and "La Situation."

I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the first and a few extracts from the second of these publications.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

"Reflexions sur la Rétrocession des Trois Districts de la Bessarabie;" par Nicolas Kretzulesco. Mars 1878. *Bucarest: Imprimerie de la Cour, Propriétaire F. Göbl,* 12, *Passage Roumain.* 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Extract from the "Messager de Vienne" of May 10, 1878.

Extract from General Floresco's brochure "La Situation."

LA SITUATION EN ROUMANIE.—Bien que nos correspondances de Bucharest ne puissent laisser aucun doute dans l'esprit de nos lecteurs sur le véritable état des choses en Roumanie nous croyons cependant devoir placer sous leurs yeux quelques extraits d'une brochure qui vient d'être publiée sous ce titre: "La Situation." L'auteur de cette brochure, Général Floresco, a été longtemps Ministre de la Guerre dans le Cabinet présidé par M. Lascar Cartardgi. Il a même été un moment Président du Conseil. Placé aujourd'hui dans l'opposition, il a cru devoir la vérité à son pays et à l'Europe relativement aux périls qui menacent la malheureuse Principauté.

"Quelques recherches que nous fassions dans l'histoire des peuples, nous n'y pourrons trouver des événements plus sérious que ceux qui se passent aujourd'hui, événements si menaçants pour la Roumanie, par suite de la malheureuse politique suivie par ses gouvernants.

"Nous ne nous arrêterons pas sur le passé, car chacun sait avec quelle légèreté M. J. Bratiano, le chef du Cabinet actuel, a conduit la politique du pays. En effet à Livadia, à Kichineff, et au moment où l'on demandait, avec tant d'instance, le concours de notre armée, M. J. Bratiano aurait pu sauvegarder les intérêts du pays, s'il avait eu la prévoyance et la gravité d'un véritable homme d'Etat.

"Nous n'insisterons pas sur ce passé, on en a assez dit à l'occasion des discussions soulevées dans les Chambres et dans la presse. Qui ne sait qu'à toutes les objections faites et aux légitimes inquiétudes du pays, la seule justification du Gouvernement, faite par ses organes de publicité, a été que le Gouvernement ne pouvait demander des contrats à la Russie et en exiger des garanties? De son côté, M. J. Bratiano, dans une des séances de la Chambre, a répondu à l'interpellation de M. le Député Urechie avec sa légèreté ordinaire; il lui a dit: 'Avant que nos troupes passassent sur la rive droite du Danube, je me suis hâté d'accourir à Parodim, pour demander les garanties convenables à Sa Majesté l'Empereur, mais ayant rencontré le Général J. Ghika, il m'a empêché de continuer ma route, en me disant que cela pourrait fâcher l'Empereur. . . .'

"Et cela a suffi pour que M. J. Bratiano revînt de Parodim sans avoir obtenu aucun résultat, et pour qu'il donnât à nos braves soldats le signal de passer le Danube.

"Arrêtons-nous un peu ici, en nous permettant la réflexion suivante:

"Nous comprenons que le régime Constitutionnel mette souvent le Souverain dans la nécessité d'éviter des conflits avec son Gouvernement, et cela dans des conditions d'importance secondaire; mais quand il s'agissait de se mettre à la tête de 40,000 hommes et d'exposer le pays aux sacrifices que la guerre impose, il est impossible que Son Altesse le Prince n'ait pas demandé à M. J. Bratiano le résultat de ses démarches à Parodim, et il est hors de doute que Son Altesse ait dû être induite en erreur, pour ne pas lui avoir dit:

"'Allez faire votre devoir, comme les intérêts du pays l'exigent, et après que vous m'aurez apporté toutes les garanties convenables, alors seulement je franchirai le Danube.'

"Si M. J. Bratiano s'était obstiné à tenir le même langage, alors que pouvait-il y avoir de plus constitutionnel sinon que Son Altesse cherchât d'autres Conseillers plus à la hauteur de la situation?

"Ainsi on a usé Léopold de Belgique dans plusieurs circonstances graves, dans plusieurs épreuves cruelles pour le petit pays qui lui avait confié ses destinées; cependant il ne s'est trouvé personne pour lui reprocher de n'avoir pas été assez Constitutionnel, au contraire, l'histoire lui a réservé une page glorieuse.

"Mais le Gouvernement, après avoir donné tant de preuves d'incapacité et d'une

faiblesse aussi coupable, dévient tout à coup violent contre la Russie à ce point qu'il force M. N. Ionesco, hier encore collègue de M. J. Bratiano dans le Ministère, de donner à M. Cogalnicéano, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, une leçon de convenance politique, en lui rappelant qu'il ait à parler comme Ministre, mais non comme un agitateur de rue!

"Soit inconséquence, soit duplicité, une semblable conduite ne peut avoir que les effets les plus malheureux!

"Même la circulaire aux Préfets de M. Bratiano comme Ministre de l'Intérieur, publiée dans le 'Moniteur Officiel' du $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril, confirme nos inquiétudes. En effet, que signifie cette circulaire dans laquelle M. Bratiano laisse à la discrétion des Préfets l'appréciation des modifications, qu'on peut apporter à la Convention du $\frac{4}{16}$ Avril, 1877, conclu avec la Russie, à la suite de la cessation de la guerre avec la Turquie? Qu'est-ce qu'une pareille pièce, sinon une véritable provocation? Cependant M. J. Bratiano termine toujours en recommandant aux préfets de faire en sorte que les citoyens se gardent de toute provocation. M. Bratiano a-t-il pensé aux conséquences fatales que peut avoir une semblable circulaire, émanée du chef du Cabinet? Ne savait-il pas qu'avant de s'adresser aux Préfets pour toute modification quelconque de la Convention, le Gouvernement devait s'entendre avec celui de la Russie, pour que les deux parties prissent des dispositions identiques? Nous ne parlons pas de la forme de cette circulaire qui pouvait, au moins, être adressée aux Préfets confidentiellement, au lieu d'être publiée, avec tant d'ostentation, dans le 'Moniteur Officiel.'

"Et voilà dans quelles conditions M. J. Bratiano entreprend, à Vienne et à Berlin, un voyage dont le résultat pouvait être prévu d'avance, s'il s'était rendu compte de la confiance qu'il pouvait inspirer à des hommes d'Etats comme le Comte Andrassy et le Prince de Bismarck, à la suite de ce qui s'était passé avec la Russie!

"Mais voyons ce qui se fait aujourd'hui même, et ce qu'il y aurait à faire.

"Après le retour de M. J. Bratiano de son voyage et à la suite de la menace de désarmer nos troupes, menace qui aurait été faite à St. Pétersbourg, on prend toutes sortes de dispositions pour disperser notre armée sur une très-grande étendue, l'exposant continuellement à des marches et contre-marches préjudiciables à des troupes, et en négligeant aussi, par cela même, l'instruction et le bon traitement des hommes, à ce point qu'il un moment donné, quand il serait nécessaire de concentrer immédiatement toute l'armée, elle soit dépourvue de tout ce qui lui est nécessaire, et exposée, dans le pays même, à des privations beaucoup plus cruelles que celles qu'elle a souffertes en Bulgarie.

"Nous ne ferons pas connaître les différents points où notre armée a été envoyée; nous nous bornerons à demander au Gouvernement, s'il n'a pas compris qu'en envoyant une division à Turn-Sévérin il a commis une grande imprudence, en provoquant un double soupçon qu'il devait éviter avec le plus grand soin? Et M. J. Bratiano sent-il l'importance d'un pareil soupçon? Il donne lieu à l'interrogation suivante:—

"'Sommes-nous l'avant-garde de l'Autriche contre la Russie, ou l'avant-garde de la Russie contre l'Autriche?'"

No. 53.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 101. Political. Secret.)

Bucharest, May 25, 1878.

My Lord,

IT may be interesting to your Lordship to hear what is the view expressed by the leading men now in power in this country on the subject of Bessarabia in case the Great Powers of Europe should arrive at the conclusion that in the interest of general peace the objections to a retrocession of the three Bessarabian districts by Roumania to Russia ought not to be persisted in.

M. Bratiano has indeed authorized me to report, confidentially, his statement to me that Prince Charles and his Government are determined not to consent under any circumstances to any such cession, even though the Powers were all agreed to sanction and recommend such an act.

We may have to submit to force, they say, and resistance may prove impossible and useless, but it would be a difficult thing to agree to an act of spoliation, and

condone a flagrant violation of the stipulations of the Convention of the 4th April, as to the integrity of our territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 54.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 102. Political.) *Bucharest, May 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

A DESPATCH was received on the 3rd instant, dated as far back as the 25th January, 1878, with which the Earl of Derby transmitted to Colonel Mansfield the complaint of certain Jews at Galatz, and instructed my predecessor "to do what could properly be done on behalf of the applicants."

Since my arrival here, I have received numerous applications from different parties calling themselves Ottoman subjects, and claiming as such exemption from enrolment in the Roumania militia.

I have had some conversation on the subject with the Foreign Minister, M. Cogalniceano, who assures me his Government treats *bonâ fide* Ottoman subjects exactly like those of any other Power, but that they cannot allow the claims of persons who are Roumanians and have illegally obtained "teskeres" in the hopes of thus acquiring a privileged "status."

It will be necessary to institute further inquiries into particular cases, and I shall put myself in communication with the district Consuls for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 55.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 103. Political.) *Bucharest, May 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying translation of a Russian Proclamation published in Bulgaria by M. Bielotercovetu, Governor of Toultcha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

THE General Committee in Moscow, under the patronage of the Heir to the Throne, formed for the collection of donations for the purpose of purchasing vessels to create voluntary fleets, has published the following Proclamation:—

"Providence sends to Russia a fresh trial! The enemy threatens us with war!

"Countrymen! can we suffer him to nullify the fruits of our victories, and to again subjugate our brothers, liberated by us?

"Our enemy is powerful on the sea! His maritime powers are very much greater than ours, both in numbers and in vast means. But there are ways of doing him much harm on the high seas!

"Who does not know that all the interests of our enemy tend to gain and seizure?

"He possesses an immense commercial fleet; 30,000 of his vessels navigate the ocean. Thither we ought to direct our attacks!

"During the time when he will shut up our seas, and when, as during the Crimean War, he will burn and despoil inoffensive villages in our territory, let us so act that his commercial fleet shall meet on the waters of the ocean the destruction of war.

"With this object in view we need vessels of great speed and power, which in an emergency would be able to defend themselves on the commercial sea-ways of the enemy.

"The late war has crowned Russian sailors with glory, who, in their fragile vessels, supported unequal struggles, being the dread of all the ironclad monitors of the enemy, and coming out victorious.

"Let us give them real sea-going vessels, sending them on the oceans to seize the commercial fleets of the enemy, and then he will regret his presumption.

"Sons of Russia! ye who have always risen as a single man when danger has threatened our mother Russia, ye will now unanimously reply to her voice and form a voluntary fleet, which will anew show to the whole world what the Russian people can do when it rises to defend the honour of its country.

"Time presses! Let us work with promptitude. If you desire peace be ready for war!"

Publishing this Proclamation for the inhabitants of the Sandjak of Toultcha, the Undersigned hopes that they, as Bulgaria's sons, liberated by Russia, will not remain indifferent to the events which are preparing, but will show themselves active supporters of the Russian people, and throw in their mite into the fraternal treasury, so as to save the common Slave question.

For facilitating the collection of donations, I propose to all the nationalities of the town of Toultcha that they elect among themselves representatives, who, under my presidency, will make the regulations for collecting subscriptions, and form, with this object in view, separate committees in the other towns of this sandjak.

Subscriptions from each district to be sent to the committee in the capital of the district, whence they will be forwarded to the General Committee in Toultcha, to be sent to the destination.

The Governor of Toultcha,
(Signed) BIELOTERCOVETU.

No. 56.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 104. Political.) *Bucharest, May 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

CONSIDERABLE attention is naturally given at this juncture to the commercial value of the mouths of the Danube to ourselves, to Austria, and to Germany, and considerations of this kind are sure to affect the political views of different Powers in this question.

A friend of mine, an active man of business, of large experience both in Russia and in this country, has given me a "statement," to which I naturally attach much importance, and from which, with his leave, I have made the following extract:—

"As to the mouths of the Danube, the Russians have offered to leave the Roumanians in possession of part of Bessarabia, taking only the eastern portion, from a line drawn from Bolgrad to Ismail. They also offer part, but part only, of the Dobrudscha to Roumania, drawing a line from Ismail to Tchernavoda, and so cutting off the Roumanians entirely from the sea. Of course this would give the Russians an entry into Bulgaria without the necessity of passing through any part of Roumania, but I doubt if this is their only, or, indeed, their chief object.

"Since the opening of the Sulina mouth Roumanian trade has developed immensely, our own imports have exceeded 1,500,000*l.* sterling per annum, and the exports, in consequence, from Roumania have sometimes exceeded 8,000,000*l.* sterling. This part development has been brought about at the expense of the Odessa trade, and for years the Odessa merchants have loudly complained. The Russians say they will open the Kilia mouth free, without tolls; this would seem very generous, but by so doing they would shut up the Sulina mouth, which cannot be kept open without tolls; when this happens they can as formerly allow the Kilia mouth to close up, or impose ruinous tolls. Our trade with this country would in the natural course of events largely increase, but in the events I have anticipated it must naturally be greatly reduced, and which

would not be compensated by increased trade with Odessa on account of their high protection duties.

"This is why I think that the question of the mouths of the Danube is of much greater importance than is generally supposed. If the Russians hold the part of the Danube between Reni and Ismail the case would be far worse, for then they would be virtual masters of the river. It seems to be an axiom in England that Austria must defend the mouths of the Danube for her own sake. There are, however, many well-informed people who declare that the opening of the mouths of the Danube have been detrimental so far to Austrian commerce, and I believe that statistics will show that they are not very far wrong. Before the opening nearly all the carrying trade of the Danube was in the hands of the Austrians; now the greater part, as far as Braila, is done in English or other foreign bottoms. Austrian trade, too, has rather diminished than increased with this country and Bulgaria since the great extension of our commerce."

It is my firm belief that the danger of a gradual decline of British commerce in these countries, should the mouths of the Danube become Russian again, is not an altogether imaginary one, and it is probable that the jealousy of our increasing trade here may have something to do with the unnatural indifference of Austria and Germany on this question, both these Powers relying more on railway communication than on sea traffic for the conveyance of their goods.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 57.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 22. Political.)

Salonica, May 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 11th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, having reference to a petition and case of a Mussulman subject who has embraced Christianity.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 18th May to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting an insurrection in a district called Mallaish, near the villages Carafova and Leznovatz, east of the Mitrovitza Railway, and the pacification of the insurrection near Catterina by Mr. Consul Blunt and his return to Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, May 11, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herein, in original, a petition addressed to me and to other Consuls by a Mahommedan who embraced Christianity seven years ago under the name Giorgios Neopolistos, and who is now in prison here, and has been for some time harrassed by the authorities, to compel him to return to the faith of "Islam," or to pay 50 Turkish liras, though he declares he has already paid the "bedalié," or tax for exemption from military service imposed on all Christians.

The Greek Consul-General, M. Vatikiotis, spoke to me about this man's case about a month ago, but I did not interfere either officially or officiously, not knowing how far I should be justified in so doing, and knowing how much opposed the Turkish Government would be to establish a precedent, that a change of religion would exempt a man from the conscription.

Such cases very rarely occur, but if a change comes about in Turkish rule, they may become very frequent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, May 18, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that several batallions of troops have arrived here and have been sent on by the railway. On inquiry I am told they are going to Mitrovitza, but there does not seem to be any need of them there except Mitrovitza (where the railway terminates) be the head-quarters; that from thence they will be sent elsewhere.

The fighting is going on at a district called Mallaish or Mallèche, between Istib and Ghiustendil, at or near the villages Carafova and Lesnovatz, and seems to be an insurrection which has no connection with that in the Rhodope Mountains.

I have not been able to learn (so far off, with high ranges of mountains intervening) who are the combatants nor the cause, but there is no doubt whatever of the fact that active hostilities are going on, because I have seen two persons who have come from that neighbourhood, but who not knowing the language have not been able to learn particulars.

M. Bizzo arrived to-day from Catterina, and reports that Mr. Consul Blunt, having had an interview with the insurgents, has returned to Volo.

The Greek volunteers have been persuaded to return to Greece, and have decided to do so by land. Colonel Synge, who was with Mr. Blunt, will probably give your Excellency the particulars in the despatch which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

Many Circassians are being embarked in an Austrian Lloyd's steamer, but the rainy weather has delayed the expedition. We have much rain this year, very different from what it was at this season last year, and fears are entertained for the harvest in certain localities which lie low.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 58.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 16. Political.)

Warsaw, May 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that from the 22nd instant, nine special military trains have been ordered as daily service on the railway to Lublin from this city.

Also six similar trains for the distance from Lublin to Kovel, the latter being a small town near the Austrian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 59.

Sir R. Temple to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 3.)

Bombay, May 14, 1878.

My Lord,

AS your Lordship seemed to be so kind in listening to what little I have to represent regarding Mesopotamia and Asia Minor in their connection with India, I venture to bring one more point to your recollection, which is this—all the political, and most of the strategic, objects which have been urged by English politicians would be gained by a resuscitation of the Euphrates Valley railway project, besides the commercial advantages.

The admiration with which all Europe (excepting Russia) seems to have regarded your great Circular despatch to the various English Ambassadors, has, of course, extended to India; in fact, nowhere is the Circular more admired and welcomed than in India. We out in India know instinctively our danger from the Northern Octopus which is gradually nearing us. Greatly as we hope that you will succeed (if any one

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can possibly succeed) in restraining Russia, still we cannot help reflecting how bulwarks can best be interposed between her and India—moral, political, commercial bulwarks—if military and defensive bulwarks be, under the circumstances, impracticable.

Perhaps, if she persists in advancing to trouble us, we may have a chance of defending ourselves by force of arms.

But that would not at all obviate the expediency of defending ourselves by force of commerce.

Now a railway from Mediterranean to Persian Gulf would not exceed 900 miles. At 10,000*l.* a-mile, it would cost 9,000,000*l.*; at 15,000*l.* a-mile, it would cost 13,500,000*l.* If the line were aligned so as to make the length 800 miles, the cost would be so much less.

These sums would be very easily raised in the English market at a British guarantee of 4 per cent. The line would pay a good deal; and the guarantee would involve the payment of some comparatively small sums annually—some very few hundreds of thousand pounds a year—which would hardly be felt at all by the English Government. But the benefit to British trade would be great. And apparently it is becoming more and more an object to England to develop foreign markets for her manufactured products.

Here in Mesopotamia would be a growing market.

The feasibility of the Euphrates Valley railway would depend on our relations with Turkey, which just now seem so uncertain.

But if there is to be a Conference with the nations of Europe generally, then, besides access to Black Sea and other British points, a railway on the Euphrates might be made a British point.

This would seem consistent with the far-sighted policy which induced the British Government to purchase shares in the Suez Canal.

If there were hesitation in undertaking the whole line at once, then the piece between Bussorah and some point on Euphrates, opposite Bagdad (on Tigris) might be undertaken, about 300 miles.

And this would be the most important piece commercially, and in some respects most secure, resting on the Persian Gulf, which, fortunately, is all our own.

It may be in your Lordship's recollection that some twenty years ago* this project was much agitated both in England and India, the idea then being that the interest on outlay would be guaranteed by the Turkish Government. That resource, of course, has since failed.

Irrespectively of Turkey, the project was dropped at the time, because the British authorities, in England and India, did not perceive any adequate reason. But since then, things have changed. The collapse of Turkish power, the rapid aggrandisement of Russia, our own progress in the Persian Gulf, the growth of our interests and influence in the country between Bussorah and Bagdad, all indicate that steps might now be necessary which were not thought necessary some years ago. And besides its benefits by British trade, the construction of even a part of the Euphrates railway would be, for the British political cause, equal to the conquest or annexation of a province, or to a military victory in the field.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. TEMPLE.

No. 60.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 3.*)

India Office, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 10th ultimo, I am directed by Viscount Cranbrook to forward, for the information of Marquis of Salisbury, copy of the telegraphic correspondence in regard to the proceedings of Captain Napier, and to state that his Lordship concurs in the instructions to that officer, specified in the telegram from the Viceroy dated 21st May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

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* Perhaps even so late as twelve years ago.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Viscount Cranbrook to the Viceroy of India.

India Office, May 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

THOMSON submits to Foreign Office telegram of 5th, saying that if left discretion he would not enter Akhal country without specific purpose, and asking for your orders.

Let me know what reply you send to Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

The Viceroy of India to Viscount Cranbrook.

Simla, May 16, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram. Napier's objection to enter Akhal country is based on impending invasion which we know nothing about.

I have telegraphed to Thomson for further explanations.

Inclosure 3 in No. 60.

The Viceroy of India to Viscount Cranbrook.

Simla, May 21, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

YOURS of 13th instant.

Following reply received from Chargé d'Affaires, Tehran, dated 17th, commences:—

"Napier in his telegram of April 19th, in reply to mine of 17th, announces despatch of Russian officers on an important mission to Krasnovodsk. Alluded to difficulty in getting quick information of Russian movements from Krasnovodsk, and observed that their design was no doubt to occupy Akhal country. In a private letter of same date, he says the Prince had no news yet of the Russian forces, and that he had written to report officially the rumour he had heard and to ask for instructions, but that my telegram had rendered his letter unnecessary. There is nothing known here of military movements against the territory being now on foot, but it is believed that Russian advance of last year on Akhal country has only been deferred." Message ends.

I have replied as follows. Commences:—

"Your telegram dated 17th May. Temporary suspense of Russian advance in Kizilarvat is probably connected with the military situation in Europe. This appears to offer for Napier's Mission a favourable opportunity, which we think it desirable to use, unless there are objections known to you or him, but of course he must use his discretion, since his movements may depend on events and reasons not known here."

No. 61.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 3.*)

India Office, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM directed by Viscount Cranbrook to forward herewith, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, copy of a letter from the Government of India, with its inclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

The Governor-General of India in Council to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Simla, April 25, 1878.

My Lord,

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, extracts from police diaries received from the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, showing the feelings entertained by the Mahomedan population of the town in respect to the relations between England and Russia.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.
A. R. THOMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Extracts from the Confidential Diary of Superintendent G. A. Robertson.

Monday, 1st April 1878.—Sergeant Mendi Hossain reports that on the 30th ultimo, at 8 P.M., he went to Moonshee Sooltan's Musjid at Mateabooruoj. Moonshee Soultan is in the employ of the ex-King of Oude. There were about twenty Mahomedans present, all of Lucknow, and servants of the ex-King. A European, who turned Mahomedan in the said musjid about three months ago, was also present. The name of this man has not yet been ascertained. Moonshee Sultan inquired of a man present the news in this day's telegram. The man replied: "Master, two or three months more the English may reign." Another man said: "The Russians are superior to the English; great praise is due to them." Another of the company said: "Turkey is in league with Russia, and Hindustan will be given to Turkey by Russia after the war." Another man said: "God grant that Turkey and Russia may soon go to war with England. Our master (ex-King of Oude) will then be reinstated on his throne at Lucknow." The European Mahomedan took no part in the conversation; he seemed to be unwell, and was lying down on a mat in the Musjid. At about 9 P.M., Sergeant Mendi Hossain left the Musjid, and, when coming along the road by the King's premises, a number of his servants were talking on the road that "the English hakim has no consideration for a man's rank or connexions; they have arrested and taken Enicuth Dowlah, the brother-in-law of our master"—and they commenced cursing the British reign.

On the 31st ultimo, at 9:30 P.M., Sergeant Mendi Hossain went to Hadjee Zaccariah's Musjid at Chitpore Road in section H town. There was a large collection of men, chiefly Mahommedans from Delhi, Myman (Bombay and Surat), Arabs, and Cabulees. Prayers were offered for the Sultan of Turkey's success in war, and welfare. After prayers, the men dispersed to shops in the vicinity of the musjid opening on the road. Inquiries were made about this day's telegram, when Myman (Surat) Mahomedan said: "The baniahs, English, have behaved badly with the Sultan of Turkey. They incited the Turks to war with Russia promising assistance, but fell back from their word. The English will gain a good recompense for this." A Cabuler who was present said: "So soon as Turkey and Russia commence war with England, the Ameer of Cabul will also declare war, and the English will be completely annihilated." Another man observed: "The Russians are very good towards their soldiers; they keep and treat them well." At this time the constable of the beat came up and dispersed the crowd.

Sub-Inspector Fyze Khan reports that at 9:30 P.M. he went to Hadjee Zaccariah's Musjid. There were over one thousand Mahomedans present. After the usual prayers, the men assembled in groups of tens and twenties. The conversation was that Russia and Turkey are become one, and there is a prospect of their going to war with England. Syud Atracah, an Arab, the Muthuoollah (priest), read prayers for the welfare of the Sultan, and sweatmeats were distributed to the congregation.

2nd April, 1878.—No new arrivals by the East Indian Railway train this day.

Sergeant Mendi Hossain on the 2nd instant proceeded to Mateabooruoj at 2 P.M., to see the European who had turned Mahomedan at Moonshee Sultan's Musjid, reported in diary of the 1st instant. Ascertained that the man had gone to the tannery of Moonshee Sultan at Tangra in section F suburbs. Proceeded there; saw the man seated in a Mahommedan doctor's shop; in course of conversation, learnt that the European who had turned Mahommedan is called Golam Mahomed; his European name is James Gill, a groom, who came from Australia with horses imported by Mr. Edward Weeks, and consigned to Messrs. Cook and Co. Further ascertained that James Gill, *alias* Golam Mahomed, some four months ago, became enamoured of a Mahomedan prostitute at Mateabooruoj. This led him into a row with some Mahomedans of the place. Moonshee Sultan then proposed to James Gill to turn Mahomedan, and that he would obtain the woman, and his prospects would be bettered. James Gill agreed, and was circumcised about three and a half months ago. Since then he has been residing in the house of Moonshee Sultan, and works in his tannery at Tangra,* but he has not yet obtained the woman he was promised. Gill has adopted the Mahomedan dress; the man does not understand Hindustani, but is being taught the language.

Two Europeans who had turned Mahomedans—one at Lahore, named Abdoollah, and the other at Bombay, name not yet known—came to Calcutta on the 17th ultimo. The man named Abdoollah lives at Hadjee Zaccariah's Musjid, and Jummalooddeen's Musjid; the other man has no fixed residence. He lives with Mahomedans, sometimes at Tallygunge and at Mateabooruoj. They dress as fakirs, speak Hindustani fluently, but are English by birth; they are very suspicious, and will not enter into conversation regarding their European names or position before they turned Mahomedans. Sergeant Mendi Hossain attended Jummalooddeen's Musjid at Chitpore Road, in section G town, from 8 to 9 P.M. There were very few people assembled for prayers—from fifty to sixty men. Nothing of importance.

Sub-Inspector Fyze Khan attended Hadjee Zaccariah's Musjid at 5 P.M. There were about one thousand persons present. Prayers were offered up for the welfare of the Sultan of Turkey, and there was a talk that Osman Pacha, who was made a prisoner by the Russians, was released and made Governor; also was in command of the joint forces of Russia and Turkey. The congregation were, or seemed, much pleased to hear that peace was concluded between Russia and Turkey.

No. 62.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 3.)

Admiralty, June 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, dated 2nd June, reporting arrival in Crete.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Suda Port, June 2, 1878, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

"Minotaur" and "Defence" arrived at Suda Port, Crete.

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* Is living there now.

No. 63.

Baron Lionel de Rothschild to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, June 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour of writing these few lines to your Lordship on a subject in which I take the very greatest interest; and I sincerely hope you will excuse my addressing you at a moment when your Lordship is deeply occupied on most important matters.

The subject about which I take the liberty of troubling your Lordship is one which will be brought before the Congress now about to assemble at Berlin; and your Lordship will, I hope, excuse me for first expressing my own feelings, and congratulating your Lordship on the very successful and happy result of the exertions of Her Majesty's Government in bringing about the meeting of the Congress, and also on the very high and powerful position which Her Majesty's Government has thus obtained.

The influence, therefore, which Her Majesty's Government will have in the Congress which is about to meet will, I have not the slightest doubt, enable Her Majesty's Representatives to carry any question they may propose and support; and I have every reason to hope that your Lordship, as one of those Representatives, will exert yourself in favour of placing every religious denomination on the same footing of equality in the countries for the better administration and for the regulation of which the Congress is now about to meet.

In Servia the Jews have been expelled from their homes, and have been forbidden to obtain domicile in the country, the city of Belgrade excepted; and while their political rights have been left intact, by a strange irony their civil rights have been withheld from them.

In Roumania particularly, as your Lordship is no doubt aware, the Jews are still more cruelly oppressed and frightfully persecuted. Though attached to their native land, they lost of late years, by a series of laws more outrageous than the violence of riots, the right of establishing themselves in the communes; of holding land in the provinces, even on lease; of becoming proprietors of houses in towns; of bidding at public auctions; of taking part in the manufacture and sale of tobacco, which relief alone affected upwards of 5,000 families; and of retailing any liquor in the communes; and, going still further, the Roumanian Government is even so illiberal that, in their Treaties of Commerce, it is expressly stipulated that Jews of the country with whom they make their Treatiesare to be considered and treated on the same footing as Roumanian Jews. May I, therefore, be allowed to ask your Lordship, that, while Her Majesty's Representatives advocate religious equality, they may also be instructed to endeavour to remove those disabilities which I have referred to, and under which the Jews in Servia and Roumania are still suffering.

The British Government has, on all occasions, so warmly supported the cause of religious liberty all over the world, that I hope you will excuse my repeating that we have every confidence in the kind assistance we may hope to obtain from your Lordship; and, in conclusion, begging again to apologize for intruding on your Lordship's attention at this important time, I have, &c.

(Signed) LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD.

P.S.—Since the foregoing was written I have been informed, as to the Jews of Servia, that, by a Decree of 1861, they are forbidden to trade in the interior in certain kinds of goods, to open shops, or buy real estates. The right to trade in goods not expressly prohibited is not transmissible to their children or heirs.

In Roumania all Jews have been declared by the law as "aliens."

And in Bulgaria most of the congregations are broken up, and the refugees dread returning, as those who have returned have been ill-used by the Bulgarian Christians.

L. DE R.

No. 64.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(Telegraphic.) (Secret.) *Washington, June 2, 1878.*

A FORTUNATE opportunity has offered of buying the plans of internal arrangements of Lay's torpedo, for which I have authorized the payment of 40*l.* These, with descriptions, will be sent home as soon as possible. Complete drawings of Lay's whole system can be obtained, if desired, for about 120*l.* more; but in that case it will be desirable to let me know, without delay, that they are wanted.

No. 65.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tunis, June 2, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Consul has informed the Bey that as Russian Admiral and squadron are coming to the Mediterranean, whether His Highness had any objection to their visiting Tunis. Bey replied he had none whatever, the relations between two Governments being upon a friendly footing. My opinion being asked, I stated that the Russian squadron in the Mediterranean was a sure sign of peace, otherwise it would not venture in these waters, under the circumstances, with hostile intentions towards Turkey and England.

No. 66.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Jerningham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1878.*

YOU may send Lieutenant Marshall to Pirot as you propose.

No. 67.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 1, 1878.*

FROM a confidential source (at?) Cettinjé I learn that the acting Austrian Agent there has been led to believe by the Montenegrin authorities, for purposes of their own, that I had been there on urgent business, and had come to an important arrangement with the Prince.

Beyond matter reported in my telegram of 20th, at length, nothing of a really business nature passed between His Highness and me.

I have reported by my despatch No. 52 of the 24th ultimo that the Prince requested me to inform your Lordship that he was prepared to give any security that might be required by Great Britain regarding his possession of Antivari and the sea-coast now held by him, such as, for instance, consenting to the neutralization of Montenegrin outlines; limitation of number of ships to be held by him; or acceptance of the protection of England alone, or the whole of Europe. I have also communicated by private letter to Mr. Currie that a hint was thrown out to me that, should war break out, it would not be quite impossible to detach Montenegro from her present connections. Should your Lordship attach importance to this, I would suggest my being ordered to England to furnish verbal explanations.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 68.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

Bucharest, June 3, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

TWO principal Ministers intend attending the Congress, and this will necessarily interrupt for a time approaching commercial negotiations here.

No. 69.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

Tehran June 3, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

CAPTAIN NAPIER reports from Serrekhs, on May 15, that in consequence of disorganization among the Merv tribes caused by no successor to the influential Koushid-Khan having been found, it was improbable that any party in the tribe would be strong enough to give sufficient hostages for his safety, or secure him against the hostility or cupidity of his opponents. He expected to hear on the 23rd direct from Merv as to the actual state of affairs there, and if it appeared, as he feared, that there was at present no secure mode of carrying out his instructions, he proposed to return to Meshed and to turn his attention to the Akhal territory, which he considered would just now be easily accessible, in spite of anything that may be done by Russian agents.

Communicated to the Viceroy.

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 3, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 2nd, the telegram not to be communicated related to the Congress, and is now superseded by my telegram *en clair* of yesterday.

No. 71.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

Rome, June 3, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT CORTI received invitation to Congress to-day, and intends leaving for Berlin on Sunday next.

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 683.)

Foreign Office, June 3, 1878.

Sir,

DURING a conversation which I had yesterday with the German Ambassador at this Court, his Excellency pressed me to urge upon the Turkish Government the surrender of the fortresses mentioned in the Treaty of San Stefano.

I told his Excellency that I could not consent to do so, and informed him that the ground upon which Her Majesty's Government must decline to take such a step was that which they had uniformly maintained, namely, that not recognizing the Treaty of San Stefano, they were not in a position to pronounce any opinion or to give any advice upon the interpretation to be placed upon it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 73.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 65. Political.)

Trebizond, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the several despatches which I addressed last year to your Lordship's predecessor, on the subject of the Caucasian emigrants, and especially to No. 48 of the 24th August, in which I mentioned that, in their numbers, there were 350 Christian Abazian families willing to return to Russia, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter addressed to me on the 15th instant by Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet of Samsoon.

He reports that these Christian Abazians, who were landed at Synope, and number now 1,600 souls, beg to be repatriated, and that this is not only refused to them, but that even those who want to pay themselves their expenses back, are prevented to depart.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Extrait.)

Samsoun, le 15 Mai, 1878.

JE suis informé que les Abazes qui ont été envoyés à Sinope, sont fort maltraités, du moins ceux qui se sont déclarés Chrétiens, et il y en a environ 1,600 de cette catégorie.

On leur a d'abord retiré à tous le faible secours que leur donnait le Gouvernement et qui était pour un grand nombre d'entre eux l'unique ressource dont ils disposaient, ce qui a eu pour conséquence de les livrer complétement à la charité publique.

Un peu plus tard l'on a recommencé a donner la ration, mais aux jeunes enfants seulement.

Un grand nombre de ces infortunés sont réduit à la dernière misère et en proie aux maladies que celle-ci entraîne.

Ils demandent tous à être repatriés, mais non-seulement cela leur est refusé, mais l'on n'a pas même voulu permettre de partir à ceux qui désiraient le faire à leurs frais. Une centaine de familles s'étaient préparées à s'embarquer sur le bateau "Malakoff," qui est passé à Sinope la semaine dernière; mais l'autorité, ayant été prévenue de cela, a mis empêchement à leur départ, et pour y mieux parvenir, a fait mettre en prison les chefs de ces pauvres gens, et a envoyé les autres dans les villages des environs, où ils sont fort exposés à mourir de faim et de froid.

L'Archevêque Grec est à Sinope depuis longtemps et doit s'occuper activement du sort de ces pauvres émigrés; mais il paraît qu'il est impuissant à leur éviter les maux dont je viens de parler.

No. 74.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 66. Political.)

Trebizond, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to report, in my despatch to your Lordship No. 37 of the 1st April last, that the population of Samsoon was in great anxiety in consequence of the landing in that place of nearly 6,000 Circassian emigrants from Turkey in Europe.

The Mutessarifilik of Samsoon, which had been independent for the last five years, having been again placed lately under the jurisdiction of Trebizond, I availed myself of the circumstance to speak on the subject of the said emigrants to the Governor-General, who gave orders for their departure as soon as it was practicable, and for the increase by 100 zaptiehs of the local police.

From the inclosed copy of a letter which Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet addressed

to me on the 15th instant, it would appear that if Samsoon escaped the depredations of the Circassians, the surrounding country was not spared, and that the insecurity is still so great, that the Pasha of Samsoon has asked for 4,000 soldiers to prevent further disorders.

The Governor-General of Trebizond, to whom I spoke this morning on the subject, informed me that having no troops at his disposal, he had referred the case to Constantinople.

I have heard since my call on the Pasha, from a very reliable source, that at Tash Ova, a locality sixteen hours distant from Samsoon and eight from Amassia, the inhabitants, to the number of 800, had taken up arms to oppose 700 Circassians who were committing depredations, and that in the encounter which followed eleven of the inhabitants were killed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Samsoun, le 15 Mai, 1878.

(Extrait.)

LES Circassiens continuent à être pour le pays un grand sujet d'inquiétudes. Nous sommes à peu près débarrassés des émigrés de cette nation, lesquels ont vécu au milieu de nous pendant plusieurs mois, sans qu'il fut possible de les expédier au lieu de leur destination, Siwas, parce que les moyens de transport manquaient dans le principe, ou bien parce que les Circassiens refusaient de partir alléguant la saison rigoureuse, le mauvais état des routes, ce qui était vrai; ou bien, enfin, parce qu'ils ne se souciaient pas d'aller dans la contrée qui leur avait été désignée.

Ces derniers se sont arrangés pour aller vivre, au moins momentanément, parmi leurs compatriotes établis dans les environs: Baffra, Teharchamba, &c.

Bref, comme je vous l'ai déjà dit, tous, ou à peu près tous, ont quitté la ville, et Dieu merci, avant que les chaleurs se fissent sentir, ce qui nous a préservés des maladies contagieuses dont beaucoup d'entre eux étaient atteints.

Seulement, si la ville n'a pas eu trop à souffrir de l'hospitalité qu'elle a dû donner à ces misérables il paraît qu'en revanche les populations des campagnes habitant dans le voisinage des routes que ceux-ci ont dû suivre, les voyageurs et les muletiers, y compris ceux même qui les accompagnaient, ont été fort maltraités par eux.

Bien des récits tragiques circulent à ce sujet par la ville. Il y a sans doute, comme toujours, de l'exagération dans ces récits; mais ce qui n'est pas douteux, c'est qu'ils contiennent un fond de vérité fort déplorable.

Les environs de Samsoun sont redevenus ce qu'ils étaient, il y a quelques mois, du vivant du trop fameux brigand Circassien Hadji Youssouf. Il ne se passe pas de jour sans que l'on apprenne des actes de vol, de pillage ou de meurtre commis dans les villages ou sur les routes qui mènent à Baffra, à Amassia et à Teharchamba.

On accuse de ces actes plusieurs bandes de malfaiteurs Circassiens, deux entre autres à la tête desquelles se trouveraient un nommé Sare Nizan, qui fut un des Lieutenants de Hadji Youssouf et Aslanoff, le même qui, il y a quelques mois, assassina dans la ville même de Samsoun, la famille Macarios, ainsi que le chef de cette famille put le déclarer avant de mourir.

On me rapporte que notre Pacha ayant reçu des observations de la part du Vali de Trébizonde au sujet des désordres qui ont lieu ici et ayant même été averti qu'il serait rendu responsable de ces désordres, il a demandé au Vali de mettre à sa disposition 4,000 hommes de troupe. Ce serait beaucoup; mais il est certain qu'il faudrait assez de monde pour pouvoir assurer la tranquillité et la sécurité publiques sur l'immense étendue de terrain où elles se trouvent troublées.

No. 75.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 67. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, May* 20, 1878.

IT was reported about a fortnight ago that a certain Cherif Bey had passed over to the Russians, and although he seems to have been a person of some influence in the Lazistan, his defection attracted little attention, he having crossed the frontier only with his family.

However, as it is rumoured now that Cherif Bey was received with marked distinction at Tiflis, and that the Russians make capital out of his presence amongst them, I have the honour to give your Lordship a few details connected with this individual.

About two years ago Cherif Bey was accused to have murdered one of his thirteen sons, for which offence he was kept in prison at Erzeroum for some time, then sent to Batoum, under bail, for trial.

On the outbreak of the hostilities, which took place shortly after, he had the command of a corps of volunteers in the Upper Ajara.

Since, Dervish Pasha having often invited him to repair to Batoum, for what motive it is not known, Cherif Bey, part of whose property is at Ardahan and part in the Upper Ajara close to Russia, crossed the frontier. He seems to have been at all times in terms of great intimacy with Michael Bey, an Armenian of Tiflis, who is now Governor of Ardahan.

However, two of Cherif Bey's sons escaped from Tiflis, but one of them was apprehended before he had entered the Lazistan.

It is now said that a paper signed by Cherif and other Beys, no doubt his sons, is presented by Russia to show that part of the population of the Lazistan is willing to be annexed to it. The best answer to this pretention is the armed corps of Laz which has compelled the Russians to withdraw from the Upper Ajara.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 76.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 68. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, May* 21, 1878.

THE last news from Batoum is that the presence of Tsuruksooli Ali and Osman Pashas has been the means to dissipate a feeling of coldness which had sprung up lately between some of the Laz Beys.

The corps of Laz volunteers which had compelled the Russians to retreat from the Upper Ajara is still there.

The inhabitants of the districts of Moorgul, Heh, and Mudjhal, on the road to Livanah, are taking up arms with great enthusiasm; and it is rumoured that many volunteers, even from distant parts of Anatolia, arrive daily in the Lazistan.

Of the twelve Turkish battalions which were at Batoum, four have been sent to the village of Livanah, and as many to that of Acho, in the Ajara.

After an inspection of Ali Bey and Nihad Pasha of the camp at Likindjir, the Turkish out-posts—which are now at Samova, while the Russians are at Hussoobau—have been strongly reinforced.

Batoum seems to be now in a position to resist all attempts of the Russians to seize upon it by land, while there are two ironclad corvettes protecting it on the sea side.

The Laz Beys are very satisfied with the present turn of affairs, but are still in hopes to be protected by Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 77.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 4.*)

(No. 69. Political.)

Trebizond, May 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Cretan Deputy, Christoforos Arghiraki, who, about a year ago, was exiled to Diarbekir, but allowed, on his way there, to remain at Samsoon, died on the 14th instant, in the prisons of that town.

It would seem that on Easter, the permission which is usually granted to all Christian prisoners in Turkey, to be set at liberty under bail, for the performance of their religious duties, was refused to him.

Shortly after, having been taken ill with typhus, Arghiraki begged to be allowed to be transferred, under bail of the most respectable persons at Samsoon, to a room in the town.

The Pasha, not wishing to assume the responsibility, telegraphed to the Porte, which left it to his option to grant the demand if possible; but the Medjlis decided that there was no motive to remove Arghiraki, who finally died in prison.

This circumstance has so painfully impressed the Greek population at Samsoon, that the day of the funeral was one of public mourning. The shops in the bazaar were closed, and the whole Greek population, women included, accompanied the remains of Arghiraki to their resting-place.

Two orations were delivered in the church on the occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 78.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 4.*)

(No. 29. Political.)

Odessa, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an original petition in Polish, with translation, addressed to me by some of the Greco-Uniats who have been deported to the Government of Kherson.

This petition was dated in September, but the petitioners only quite recently found means to convey it to me.

The inquiries I have made lead me to the belief that there is no exaggeration in any of the statements. I have inquired more particularly into the one relating to the flogging, and I am assured it is true. I must admit that my informants have generally been Poles. Russians might possibly deny the facts, or state they are greatly exaggerated, or that the punishments were inflicted for political or criminal offences, and had nothing to do with religion. I have not, however, thought it desirable recently to appear to interest myself in such matters. Previously I have heard Russians admit that those Uniats had been ill-treated, but their explanation was that they were conspiring against the State.

Possibly the "regretable acts" alluded to by M. Bezobrazoff in the passage from his writings which I quoted in my despatch No. 34, Political, of the 27th June, 1877, are those complained of by the petitioners.

The confidential letter to the various Governors, dated the 24th October, 1875, alluding to General Kotzebue's opinion and suggestion, and of which I inclosed a copy in my despatch No. 21, Political, of the 17th November, 1876, furnishes a clue to the proceedings complained of by the petitioners, as showing how anxiously the Government desired that those Uniats should be converted to Orthodoxy. It completely corroborates their statement that they are not allowed to confess to Roman Catholic priests, and makes no allusion to any political offences.

On its behalf the Government states that those men are not Catholics, but, in reality, Orthodox; and that, therefore, the Orthodox priests should suffice for all their religious wants.

The Uniats evidently hold a different opinion, being willing to suffer the hardships complained of rather that accept Orthodox priests as their spiritual guides.

No. 77*.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 4.*)

(No. 70. Political.)

Trebizond, May 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that last week orders have been received from the Porte to collect the young men of the contingent of 1294 (1877), who had drawn at conscription a few months ago, and had been allowed to return to their homes after some of them had been incorporated in the army.

The contingent of this Province is reckoned to amount to about 4,000 men.

The above-mentioned order of the Porte refers at the same time to the possibility of the Redifs being also called out, and states that further orders will be issued when the necessity arises.

Viscount du Halgoët, the French Military Attaché at Constantinople, arrived here on the 17th instant, and left on the 20th for Baiburt, Erzinghian, and perhaps Moosh. The object of his journey seems to be to ascertain the real number of the Turkish regular forces in the field. He intends on his return to visit also the Lazistan.

It is difficult for me to give at present an accurate statement of these forces, but they can be reckoned to amount to about 50,000 men, distributed as follows:—Between Baiburt and Erzinghian 18,000, at Moosh 20,000, and at Batoum 12,000.

Captain Woods, of the Imperial Ottoman Navy, is here on his way to examine the condition of the torpedoes sunk in the harbour of Batoum during the last war, and perhaps to place new ones, which are said to be on board the Turkish transport "Medari Tevfik," which leaves to-day for that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Should the inclosed petition be published, I would ask, in the interests of the petitioners, that their names be withheld.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Petition.

To the Very Honourable English Consul residing in the Government of Kherson.

WITH all humility we throw ourselves at your feet, most honoured Sir, as orphans abandoned by our father—our natural protector.

During many years we have been subject to the Emperor of Russia, who now rules our country, taking at first as a basis the Treaties signed with Great Britain and Austria.

This state of things continued till 1830, when the Government began to institute Ordinances regarding religion, to the destruction of our country.

At first the great Lords were oppressed by every kind of persecution, so that they were obliged to abandon their native land and to fly abroad.

The lower classes, even till now, have had to endure every oppression; the martyrdom suffered by the poor has no ending; it has doubled in intensity.

In 1866 new laws were promulgated to change the Roman Catholic religion to the schismatic (Orthodox) in the Governments of Siedlec Lublin, Souwalki, and Lomza, which constitute the Bishopric of Kholm.

All means were taken to compel us to accept the said schismatic religion; thus some priests, become enemies of the holy Catholic Roman Church, tried by false doctrines to lead the people astray from the right path, and to make them accept the schismatic religion. In this crisis, the people, recognizing the great lie and blasphemy against the Roman Catholic religion, would not accept their proposals, but the Government, unconcerned by the calamities which have weighed on the people, acted with still greater severity, devastating the country and harassing the people.

In 1867 they destroyed the churches, broke the organs, threw outside the altars, and the property of the churches, dragging them into the court-yards; there they trampled on them, and insulted the divine images.

In this sad moment the people, not wishing to break the seal of holy baptism, wept and lamented outside God's houses, refusing to quit the faith of their ancestors. The Government then forbade us to sing in Polish the Holy Rosary and other hymns, they took away our Prayer Books, so that we could no longer pray from them; they took from our women devoted to our Lady their rosaries and beads.

Many of our people were thrown into prison, and there suffered every hardship; others, paying fines on account of their refusal to accept the schismatic religion, worshipped in the open air, would not have their children baptized by the schismatic priests, and were unable to perform the ordinances enjoined by our religion.

Our priests who would not sign the circulars were deported. Finally, they sent armed soldiers to carry out their orders, forcing our people to baptize their children according to the schismatic religion, but the people, firm in their religious convictions, refused to change.

These tyrants, seeing the constancy of the people, acted in a still more horrible manner. They took from us our cattle, our sheep; they killed them, first torturing in various ways, before our eyes, these dumb beasts, so that the sight might compel us to accept the schism.

They forced our people to go out of their houses in the severe frosts, not allowing them to walk, but compelling them to stand facing the wind, so that their feet froze.

Some who could no longer endure the agony signed that they voluntarily accepted the schismatic religion. These tortures not, however, sufficing to convince many, they were assembled together, men, women, boys and girls of 14 years old; they were then, without one exception, frightfully beaten, each receiving 200, 300, or more blows.

By this means some were forced to embrace the schismatic religion.

Those who had the courage to remain firm were thrown into prison and detained for a year. We were of this number; we are 307 deported to the Government of

Kherson without any trial. We groan since three years, though we have committed no offence against the laws of the country.

Not only is no help given to us, but we are treated as the worst criminals. We are forbidden to confess to our priests. For more than four years we have not confessed. We wander as vagabonds, living as beggars, without clothing to keep our bodies warm. We suffer from hunger, from cold, and other miseries.

Our wives and children who remain in their country are also atrociously persecuted, to compel them to fulfil the requirements of the schismatic religion. They took away their clothing, they imprisoned them for months, they inflicted on them other sufferings. At the present time they annoy them, making them come to the Government Offices and sign (*sic*).

They tell them they will send them to Siberia, and they give them two months for reflection.

Therefore, in our misfortunes we throw ourselves at your feet, imploring you to cast an eye on our sad lot, and submit to Her Majesty the Queen our dreadful position that she may graciously become our mother and deign to represent our sufferings to His Majesty our Emperor of all the Russias.

The inhabitants of the Kingdom of Poland, Government of Seidlce, residing in the Government of Kherson, districts of Kherson and Elizabethgrade, under the surveillance of the police.

(Signed) GREGORY KOZTOWSKI.
(And 12 others).

Village Novi Bong, September 16, 1877.

(N.B. By translator into French, a Polish gentleman.)—If a thorough inquiry were made, cruelties would be brought to light much more than those imputed to the Turks.

No. 79.

M. Cogalniceano to M. Callimaki-Catargi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Callimaki-Catargi, June 4.)

Bucarest, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Mai*, 1878.

M. l'Agent,

VOUS connaissez, par mon office du $\frac{26 \text{ Avril}}{8 \text{ Mai}}$ dernier, mes démarches écrites auprès de M. l'Agent Diplomatique de Russie à Bucarest, pour obtenir des explications sur les mouvements actuels et l'installation à titre quasi permanent des armées Impériales en Roumanie, et pour demander l'application sincère de la Convention du $\frac{4}{16}$ Avril, 1877.

L'absence de toute réponse et le développement continu des mesures qui avaient provoqué les protestations antérieures du Cabinet Roumain l'ont mis dans la pénible nécessité de revenir sur cette question.

J'ai donc adressé à M. le Baron Stuart une nouvelle note dont ci-joint copie.

Vous voudrez bien, de votre côté, intervenir auprès du Cabinet Anglais, retracer la situation telle qu'elle ressort des pièces qui vous ont été communiquées, peindre l'anxiété générale qui pèse sur la Roumanie.

Enfin vous demanderez au Cabinet Anglais d'employer sa haute et bienveillante influence auprès de la Cour de Russie pour que, dès avant la réunion du Congrès, la situation soit ramenée à un ordre de choses plus normal et plus compatible avec les droits de souveraineté de la Roumanie.

Dans l'attente de vos informations sur le résultat de ces démarches, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

Inclosure in No. 79.

M. Cogalniceano to Baron Stuart.

Bucarest, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Mai*, 1878.

M. l'Agent,

PAR notes successives en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril et du $\frac{26 \text{ Avril}}{8 \text{ Mai}}$, j'ai eu l'honneur d'attirer votre attention sur la valeur actuellement attribuable à la Convention de passage du $\frac{4}{16}$ Avril, 1877.

En vous signalant les appréhensions excitées par l'ensemble des dispositions extra-

conventionnelles que les autorités militaires Russes ont, depuis un certain temps, adoptées sur notre territoire, et qui semblent tendre à convertir le passage en occupation, j'ai pris la liberté de vous prier de vouloir bien, par des explications sur ces mesures, et par leur modification, mettre le Gouvernement Princier à même de rassurer l'opinion publique justement émue.

Non seulement mes communications sont restées jusqu'à ce jour sans réponse, mais des faits nouveaux paraissent indiquer la continuation et l'aggravation du système qui les avait provoquées.

En effet, à Berlad, des ingénieurs Russes procèdent à des travaux techniques en annonçant la prochaine et rapide construction d'une voie ferrée vers le Pruth. Un autre ingénieur s'est rendu dans cette ville afin d'y construire un magasin mesurant 500 mètres carrés.

Tout récemment un commandant et un capitaine appartenant à la marine Impériale se sont embarqués à Falcü et descendent le Pruth, dans le but d'effectuer le sondage de ce fleuve sur tout son parcours, jusqu'au Danube.

Les troupes Impériales ne cessent d'affluer sur notre territoire, y séjournent sans motif légal apparent, et élèvent sur divers points, et surtout à Ismaïl, des retranchements considérables.

Ces travaux, vu leur emplacement, eussent été inutiles lors des opérations militaires contre la Turquie. La ratification de la paix conclue à San Stéfano entre les Empires Russe et Ottoman leur enlève, *à fortiori*, toute raison.

Des officiers d'Etat-Major de l'armée Impériale explorent avec méthode les routes et positions qui regardent la région des Carpathes, et prennent des esquisses de leurs reconnaissances.

Ces procédés ont déterminé le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie à prendre des précautions analogues. Des travaux de défense sont poursuivis avec activité sur le territoire Austro-Hongrois aux défilés qui commandent la frontière Roumaine, et des forces imposantes commencent à se masser le long de cette frontière.

Tous ces symptômes attestent des prévisions réciproques d'événements militaires sur le sol Roumain.

Or, la Roumanie ne peut devenir le théâtre d'une guerre, à laquelle elle doit et veut demeurer étrangère, à tous égards. Elle a hautement manifesté son intention de garder la plus stricte neutralité. Son désir de rester à l'écart et de fermer, à l'abri de nouveaux coups, ses plaies encore saignantes, le souci de sa dignité présente et de sa sécurité future, la conscience de ses droits nous imposent le devoir impérieux d'invoquer de nouveau les stipulations, en vertu desquelles la présence des armées Impériales sur notre sol doit être limitée aux proportions d'un simple passage.

En conséquence, le Cabinet Roumain, obligé de fournir à la représentation nationale des éclaircissements sur la situation actuelle, a de nouveau recours à vous, M. l'Agent, pour obtenir que les mesures dont le réseau enveloppe de plus en plus la Roumanie soient révoquées et que la présence des armées Impériales reprenne son caractère de simple passage par voie d'étapes, pour leur rentrée en Russie.

Au cas où cette demande si légitime ne serait pas prise en considération, le Cabinet Roumain formule dès à présent et itérativement ses protestations contre la prolongation d'un état de choses anormal, et contraire au maintien des bonnes relations que la Roumanie a tant à cœur d'entretenir avec l'Empire de Russie.

Dans l'espoir que vous voudrez bien m'honorer d'une réponse à ce sujet, je vous prie, M. l'Agent, d'agréer l'assurance de ma haute considération.

(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

No. 80.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 534.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 3, 1878.

M. BRATIANO has come here to propose a Convention between Porte and Roumania for return of prisoners and for other objects not yet specified. This, he says, would infer recognition by the Porte of the independence of Roumania, which she does not wish to owe to Russia. He informs me that he is authorized, under certain circumstances, to enter into an offensive and defensive alliance with Turkey.

No. 81.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 4.*)

(No. 535.) *Therapia, June 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated Larissa, June 2:—

"I hear from trustworthy sources that Mahometan population in Northern and Southern Albania is preparing a great demonstration against Servia, and a combined movement on a large scale with Pomaks in Rhodope mountains against Russo-Bulgarian occupation and administration of several native Pashas, and the Beys and landowners are at the head of this movement. Northern Albania alone can furnish more than 100,000 armed mountaineers."

No. 82.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 4.*)

Galatz, June 4, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

SINCE May 20th, two field batteries and 700 cavalry passed through towards Bessarabia. Infantry have come from Bender and gone towards Bucharest. Two battalions have crossed from Dobrudscha to Ibrail. More heavy guns have been sent down river. Contract for 1,000 tons of coal to be delivered in thirty days. To-day a Roumanian steamer took Roumanian guns and ammunition up river.

No. 83.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 4.*)

Bucharest, June 4, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

NATURAL anxiety growing here at determination of some of the Powers unfavourable to Roumania, but it is obvious that at the Conference several arrangements may suggest themselves with reference to Bessarabia, less objectionable to Europe, and not quite so distasteful to Roumania.

No. 84.

Memorandum by Lord Tenterden.

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI (5, Bennett Street, St. James'), called to-day and said he was instructed to ask Her Majesty's Government—

1. What course the Roumanian Government should adopt in order to secure that their views should be properly represented to the Powers at the Congress. The Roumanian Government did not ask to have a Plenipotentiary admitted on the same footing as the Powers, but a mandataire or delegate who could state their wishes and the position of their country.

2. That Her Majesty's Government would use their influence with Russia to cause the Russians to desist from the aggressive attitude assumed by the Russian forces.

He then handed me the accompanying papers, and proceeded to ask further whether the independence of Roumania would be recognized as a preliminary to the admission of Roumanian Delegates at the Congress, or at all events before the Congress opened; and what policy Her Majesty's Government intended to pursue with regard to Bessarabia.

I observed to him that it might be as well if, as he stated, he was much pressed for time, not to put too many and too difficult questions, and I understood him to press more particularly for replies to his two first inquiries.

He said that Roumania had no intention of bargaining about Bessarabia. It might be taken by superior force, but should never be willingly surrendered.

I promised to repeat to you what he had said, and he begged you would let him have an early reply.

T.

Foreign Office, June 4, 1878.

No. 85.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 12. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a communication from the Porte to the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, which has been placed in my hands by his Excellency, calling attention to the ill-treatment to which Turkish prisoners of war are subjected at the hands of the Montenegrins; and I have to instruct you to make inquiries into the matter, and if you find that the circumstances are such as to call for remonstrance, to bring the case to the notice of the Montenegrin authorities, and to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that these prisoners may be treated in a manner suitable to their position as prisoners of war.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 86.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 5.*)

(No. 51. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, May 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 47 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to submit herewith the copies of two telegrams received from Hussein Pasha whilst I was at Cettigné, and which I communicated to Prince Nicholas.

His Highness repeatedly expressed to me his thanks for the part I had taken in bringing about an understanding between him and the Turkish Commander, and congratulated himself on the fortunate circumstance which had brought me to Cettigné at a most critical moment; and, with reference to the complaint contained in the Pasha's first telegram, his Highness said to me that he would order his officers, if they had really made the offensive moves alleged, to return to their former positions.

I must add that M. Yonine, the Russian Agent, was pleased to inform me that he also felt that my arrival in Montenegro had calmed fears which he had entertained that the Turkish authorities were preparing on a small scale a kind of Rhodope rising in North Albania, with which to meet the claims of Montenegro in this direction when brought under discussion in the coming Congress.

The Prince was good enough to say that he hoped Her Majesty's Government would be encouraged by his readiness to avail himself of my good offices, as well as those of Mr. Monson when he was in Montenegro, in behalf of peace and tranquillity with Turkey, to, ere long, afford his Highness the satisfaction of receiving an English Consul at Cettigné on a more formal footing than had been hitherto the case; but, although the Prince was kind enough to couple my name with this hope, I need hardly assure your Lordship that I was careful to avoid saying anything to compromise your Lordship's decision on such a subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Hussein Pasha to Consul Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, le 21 Mai, 1878, 1·5 P.M.*

J'AI bien reçu votre télégramme en date d'hier, et je vous remercie pour les assurances formelles que Son Altesse a bien voulu vous charger de me communiquer, ainsi qu'il vous sera ainsi de la contenter par le télégramme que j'adressai aujourd'hui à M. Verbitza. Sur les informations télégraphiques du Commandant de Podgoritza, les Monténégrins ayant fait concentrer dans le village de Mounchik plus de 300 hommes, je me croirais comme en droit de ne pas être complêtement rassuré, néanmoins je vous prie d'assurer formellement Son Altesse qu'aucune agression de notre côté n'aura lieu à moins qu'elle ne soit provoquée par une attaque des Monténégrins. Son Altesse est,

je n'en doute pas, convaincu par votre témoignage, aussi bien que par celui des télégrammes responsiers de vos collègues MM. les Consuls, des intentions tout-à-fait pacifiques dont je suis animé. Que vous serais reconnaissant de présenter mes hommages à Son Altesse, et de la prier de faire rendre les ordres concernantes à Mounchik, et de faire déplacer les canons mis sur les différents points de Dinoche pour que je puis être complètement rassuré.

Veuillez, en même temps, m'informer du résultat, et agréez mes sincères compléments.

Le Gouverneur-Général et Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) HUSSEIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Hussein Pasha to Consul Kirby Green.

Scutari, le 21 Mai, 1878, 7·10 P.M.

(Télégraphique.)

PRENANT en considération les assurances pacifiques données par Son Altesse le Prince, j'ai l'honneur de nous informer que je viens de donner de l'ordre au Commandant de Podgoritza de permettre aux Monténégrins de venir au marché de cette ville pour leurs affaires, à condition qu'ils ne seront pas armés, et vous prie d'en faire part à Son Altesse le Prince.

Le Gouverneur-Général, Commandant-en-chef de Scutari,
(Signé) HUSSEIN.

No. 86 A.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 52. Political.)

Scutari, May 24, 1878.

My Lord,

WHILST I was at Cettigné I gathered from persons in the confidence of Prince Nicholas that the difficulties which have arisen in the execution of the Treaty of San Stefano have somewhat unsettled the trust hitherto placed by His Highness in the power of Russia to obtain for him the advantages for his country for which he has been struggling for the last two years under her guidance.

Prince Nicholas has also been told, I believe, by some of his Voïvodas that his people are not prepared to resume a war which holds out no promise of resulting in tangible advantages for Montenegro.

I was, therefore, not taken quite by surprise when His Highness one evening asked me to inform your Lordship that he was prepared to give any security that might be desired to Great Britain, with regard to his possession of Antivari and Dulcigno. That he would consent to the neutralization of the Montenegrin waters, to the limitation of the number of vessels to be held by his Government, place his whole country, or coast alone, under the protection of England, or that of the whole of Europe, and, in fact, submit to any arrangement which the mistrust with which Montenegro is unfortunately regarded, might dictate.

Prince Nicholas hinted that the pressure exercised by Austria through its power to shut out Montenegro from the rest of the world had become intolerable, and the refusal to allow him to retain possession of Antivari would be most unjust in the face of the fact that he is prepared to submit to any and whatever obligations may be exacted to enable him to place his country in a position to develop its scanty resources.

His Highness said he felt the fullest confidence in the justice and generosity of a great nation, which, but a few years ago, nobly exemplified its disinterestedness by handing over to the Kingdom of Greece possessions of such strategical and naval importance as the Ionian Islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 86 B.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 53. Political.)

Scutari, May 25, 1878.

My Lord,

DURING my stay in Cettigné I received the visit of Capitan Prenk, the son of Capitan Cola, the uncle of Prenk Bib Doda. Capitan Cola is the only important Mirdite Chieftain who has declined to accept the amnesty recently offered by the Turkish Government, and his son, who, before the Mirdite rising, had been in Montenegro as aide-de-camp to Prince Nicholas, has now returned to Cettigné.

Capitan Prenk assured me, on the part of his father and himself, that they represent the true feeling in Mirdicia and the north Albanian mountains, and that the present submission of the majority of their countrymen must not be taken as the extinction of all hope for the formation of a quasi-independent Christian Albanian Government.

He said that although he was serving the Prince of Montenegro, he was only doing so to make patent his opposition to Turkey, and that he and the whole of his countrymen were of one mind in desiring to be brought under the Government of the hereditary Chief Prenk Bib Doda.

On my return to Scutari Prenk Bib Doda called on me and announced his reconciliation with the Turkish authorities; and, after ascertaining from Hussein Pasha that he had no objection to my visiting the Chieftain, I returned his call.

Bib Doda told me that, when it became evident that the Mirdites could no longer resist the Turkish troops, he received most pressing offers of asylum and hospitality from Prince Nicholas, but that he felt he was studying the future welfare of his country by declining to bring himself into closer connection with, or place himself under obligations to, Montenegro. He still believes and hopes that the Porte will one day understand that the interests of the Ottoman Empire are not opposed to the government of the North Albanians by the chief of their Chieftains.

The peculiar relations existing between the Mahommedans and Christians in these mountains are well exemplified by the fact that Bib Doda was able, when pursued by the Imperial troops, to find a secure refuge with his uncle, a powerful Mahommedan Chief of Luria. It is the policy of the great North Albanian families to intermarry, notwithstanding the obstacles of opposing religions. Christian Chiefs abduct, with only feigned opposition, the daughters of Moslem Chiefs, and the latter seek in the same manner their wives among the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 86 C.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 54. Political.)

Scutari, May 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to report to your Lordship that both the Prince of Montenegro and the Turkish authorities had expressed their thanks to me for having been instrumental in loosening the tension which had arisen on their frontiers, and which threatened from one moment to another to end in a resumption of hostilities.

I will not endeavour to fathom the motives which may have led Prince Nicholas to solemnly undertake not to attack the Turkish positions without ample notice. The pledge, I feel convinced, may be depended upon; and the advantage and safety accorded by it to the Turkish Commander are sufficiently great, if a sincere wish exists with him to preserve peace, to make it more dignified for him to abstain from all show of military ardour and impatience.

But Hussein Pasha, either presuming on the well-known disinclination in Montenegro for a renewal of the war, or having superior orders, has been disposed to act towards the Principalities in a manner which I feel convinced would inevitably lead to hostilities.

Two days ago he showed me the draft of a telegram which he proposed sending to the Prince. It was an exceedingly long document, couched in terms only used by the Turks towards Montenegro in past times, and concluding with a statement that if

the Prince did not order the withdrawal of his troops from the positions occupied after the date of the armistice of the 31st January last, his Excellency would have to employ force to make them do it.

It was only by placing the real state of the Turks in this country before the Pasha in the crudest language, that I succeeded in persuading his Excellency to abandon the despatch of the provocative telegram. I pointed out to Hussein Pasha that the military position had in no way been improved since the war had ceased. Not a single man had been sent to reinforce the army, whilst the battalions had continued to dwindle under the combined attacks of scurvy and typhoid fever. It was not sufficient for a change of commanders to have taken place to make 3,500 men capable of holding against the Montenegrin army a line of detached forts and redoubts which had been seriously menaced when nearly 25,000 men had guarded them.

I urged Hussein Pasha not to venture upon any step which might result in a collision without leaving the responsibility of it upon the Porte. Although I believe my arguments have been listened to, I am not certain that the Pasha, who is really a well-meaning and capable man, may not be already acting under the instructions by which I am pressing him to be guided.

All the important towns and districts have been summoned to prepare contingents of irregular troops, and hold them in readiness to be forwarded here at a moment's notice. Extraordinary efforts are being made to secure the fidelity of the Christian mountain tribes, and all other preparations now going on here for war are as active as ever they have been during the past two years.

If a sudden attack on Montenegro is made from here it will have been undoubtedly launched under Government auspices, but if it should occur in the district of Goussinć, Plava, and Berani it would have a more *bonâ fide* local foundation, as the Turkish Government possesses only nominal authority there, and its inhabitants declare they have no intention whatever of allowing themselves to be quietly transferred to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 86 B.

Mr. Browning to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

Chamber of Commerce, Manchester, June 3, 1878.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will probably be aware of an announcement which has appeared in the daily press, that it is the intention of the Turkish Government to raise the duties on the import of foreign goods from the present rates of from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent.; and it is alleged that this is to be done in order to supply the means of relief for the refugees from the war in Constantinople.

As originally proposed, the extra duty was fixed at 2 per cent., and to this Her Majesty's Government, as it was stated, had assented on "grounds of humanity;" but it was opposed by the Governments of America, Germany, and some others.

On behalf of the Board of this Chamber, I have the honour to bring the subject under your Lordship's attention; and I am to state that the proposal has created grave apprehension amongst merchants in this city, whose trade with Turkey would, under so large an increase of duty, be nearly destroyed.

The Chamber would be glad to be informed on the facts, as they have probably been communicated to Her Majesty's Government; and it is hoped that your Lordship will make strong representations against the increased duties, if it should prove that the Turkish Government have had a definite intention of carrying such a proposal into effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

No. 86 B.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(Secret.)
My Lord,

19, *Manchester Square, June 4, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's letter of the 1st instant, I have the honour to state that General Beale passed through London with his family on Easter Monday, and that they sent me a message, through my son, to express their regret that their anxiety to reach Paris without delay obliged them to limit their stay here to one night, but that they intended on their return spending some time in London, where they hoped to find Lady Buchanan and myself.

Mr. and Mrs. Bakmietieff had both been bitten by a dog supposed to be mad, and the husband having immediately cauterized their wounds with a red-hot poker, it seems probable that the ostensible cause for their family joining them in Paris was the real one.

Their marriage took place at Vienna, greatly against the wishes of General Beale, who was alleged to have accepted the mission to Vienna with a view to remove his daughter from the society of Mr. Bakmietieff, attached at the time to the Russian Legation at Washington.

I understand that General Beale, who was originally an officer in the United States' navy, has never taken any part in the politics of his country, and was appointed to the mission at Vienna as a personal friend of the President.

I shall not fail to communicate to your Lordship any information which I may be able to procure about his proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 87.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 5.)

(Confidentielle.)
(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 4 Juin, 1878.

LA condition déplorable qui est faite aux malheureuses populations Musulmanes de la Roumélie est on ne peut plus navrante.

D'après nos dernières informations, les Musulmans, qui n'ont pu quitter Philippopoli par suite de l'arrivée soudaine des Russes, souffrent horriblement. Ces infortunés se trouvent entassés dans un quartier séparé et sont traités par les Russes et les Bulgares comme des parias; on les oblige à démolir eux-mêmes leurs mosquées et à détruire leurs cimetières sous prétexte d'élargir les rues; il leur est défendu d'aller soigner leurs malades et même de porter des calottes rouges. On les tue par dizaines, et les autorités locales Russes se soucient fort peu de rechercher les coupables et de les punir; elles permettent aux Bulgares de commettre toutes sortes de cruautés et d'atrocités. Deux cents femmes qui avaient subi les derniers outrages de la part des Serviens, s'étant présentées en état de grossesse au Commandant Russe pour se plaindre de leur sort, furent ignominieusement chassées de sa présence. En un mot, il est impossible de décrire les mauvais traitements subis par les Musulmans de la part des Russes et des Bulgares.

No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, June 4, 1878.

THE proposal for raising the amount of the credit has been accepted by the Austrian Reichsrath, with a modification agreed to by the Government. The Government proposals respecting the pact have also been unanimously voted by both Delegations.

No. 89.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 159. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 4, 1878.*

ROUMANIAN Agent has received instructions to endeavour to obtain from Count Andrassy a categorical declaration of his intentions in regard to Bessarabia.

The belief of his Government is that England and Austria have made up their minds to sacrifice Roumania, and he asks whether Europe will be prepared to use force to dismember Principality.

He says if the Congress merely decides not to oppose wishes of Russia, that Power will have to destroy Roumanian army to attain its object, as the determination to resist is irrevocable.

No. 90.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 4, 1878.*

M. RISTITCH leaves to-morrow for Vienna and Berlin. His object is to begin an early canvass on behalf of the recognition of Servia by the Powers as an independent State, and the modification of its present boundaries. I learned from the Russian Agent here that his Government are not much disposed to give Pirot to the Servians, and I have every reason to believe that this is only set off against Austria for disallowing all idea of Novi-Bazar, but it would seem that no difficulty will be raised as to Wrnia (*sic* ? Wranja) on the part of Russia.

This is natural, as latter place is unimportant, while the hold of a central point like Pirot by Bulgaria or by Servia must strengthen considerably the power that owns it.

M. Ristitch did not disguise his apprehension (at the ?) power of a Bulgaria on one side, and his fears of complete investment by Austria on the other.

No. 91.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 543.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 5, 1878.*

SADYK PASHA and Karatheodory will go to the Congress to represent Turkey.

No. 92.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 5, 1878.*

EMPEROR has, on the advice of Prince Bismarck, consented to delegate his powers to Crown Prince, as was done in 1857 during the late King's illness. Measure will be announced to-night.

No. 93.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5, night.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 5, 1878, 3·30 P.M.*

I HAVE just seen Prince Gortchakow. He begged me to inform your Lordship that he will attend Congress with Count Schouvaloff and M. d'Oubril, and that he purposes leaving for Berlin on Sunday or Monday next.

He is better, but still weak. He makes this effort for the pleasure of meeting Lord Beaconsfield and your Lordship.

Count Schouvaloff and M. d'Oubril are expected here to-morrow.

No. 94.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June 5, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON informs me that his acceptance of invitation to Congress was dispatched yesterday, and that it repeated condition that no questions not directly arising out of the war should be brought forward, and excluded specifically Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Places from discussion.

M. Waddington starts for Berlin next Sunday evening.

No. 95.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 2. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, May 25, 1878.*

I MENTIONED in my despatch to your Lordship No. 12 of the 13th ultimo, that if all the routes to Persia were in the possession of Russia the British trade with that country would pass entirely into the hands of Russia.

The present condition of the transit trade in this quarter is a striking illustration of the circumstances which will lead to that result.

The Turkish Custom-house authorities have been removed lately from Erzeroum to Baiburt. Russian Custom-house officers have been appointed in the former town; but no duties being levied by them, the road is nominally as open as before. However, the absence of caravans for the last few months has placed the trade with Persia in the position which it would occupy if this route were in the uncontrolled possession of Russia.

Before proceeding further, I must explain that the want of caravans was due at first to their non-departure from Persia in consequence of the occupation of the road, and at a later period to their finding employment in the Russian camp at remunerative prices.

Of a caravan of 2,000 horses which was expected since some time 1,500 have been thus employed, and the remaining have not yet made their appearance. This caravan of 500 horses is the first arriving from Persia within the last six months, while in former times the average number of horses from that country was about 6,000 a month.

The Erzeroum road being thus virtually closed since that time, no other means of communication with Persia remained than the Tiflis route or the more circuitous one of Bagdad.

The Russian Government, which had up to that period accepted, as it was done in Turkey, guarantees for the Customs duties on the goods landed at Poti for transit to Persia availed themselves of the circumstance to exact the deposit in gold on the basis of the Tariff, which is very heavy for goods imported for consumption in Russia.

Some merchants sent lately goods to Persia through Poti in the hope that the surety of first-rate bankers would be accepted instead of a deposit. Others preferred to run the venture to re-ship their merchandize for Bagdad, from thence to be forwarded to destination.

The disadvantages of the route chosen by the latter, with its risks, expense, and loss of time, are too obvious for me to dwell upon, but it shows the measure of the detriment accruing to the Persian transit by the protectionist duties imposed by Russia.

One of the principal Greek merchants of this town gave me the following note of an expedition made by him to Persia through Poti:—

			£
60 bales of 200 lbs. grey goods	.. ..	value	600
25 „ 200 lbs. Mudopolams	.. ..	„	350
15 „ 200 lbs. muslins	.. ..	„	450
100 cases of 90 lbs. tea ..	.. ..	„	800
Total			2,400

The guarantee of his banker having been refused, he reckons that he will have to deposit 3,200*l.*, or 125 per cent. on the value.

The banker telegraphed him to send no more goods, and reports that the bales are opened, a circumstance which, alone, is sufficient to thwart the transit trade to Persia.

In fact the goods for that country are packed up with special care to resist a long journey by land, and exposure to rain and wet, their being opened deprives the merchants of their only security for their goods reaching their destination in a sound condition.

However, this difficulty may be overcome by renewing the packing at heavy expense and great loss of time, but the deposit of 125 per cent. on the value of goods is a measure which would tax the resources of the merchants of all countries, and which amounts for those in the East to a total prohibition.

Their capitals are limited and required to cover the credits opened to them in Europe. By diverting from these capitals more than half for deposit their commercial transactions will be reduced by a similar amount, and the goods procured with the remainder will come to a price favouring Russian competition.

Under these circumstances Russia will begin by introducing into Persia the surplus required for local consumption, which merchants in Turkey and Persia will be no longer in a position to import, and not long after British cotton manufactures and other articles of commerce will be entirely superseded by Russian, not only in Persia, but also in the extensive territory claimed for annexation.

No doubt can be entertained that this result will be attained even, if required, by levying heavier protectionist duties.

The regulation so detrimental to foreign, or rather to British trade, at a time when the Erzeroum road is closed only through fortuitous circumstances, gives an idea of the measures which may be resorted to should ever this road pass definitively in the hands of Russia.

I beg the more to call your Lordship's attention to the evil which is certain to result in that case, that British cotton manufactures and other articles of British commerce represent nearly ten times the value imported by all the other countries put together, in Persia and in the Turkish districts intended to be annexed.

These British imports may be reckoned to amount in round numbers to 1,000,000*l.* a year.

I have already shown, in my despatch No. 42, that the cession of Batoum will be productive of the same result.

So far as the inhabitants of Trebizond and Erzeroum are concerned it is obvious that the transit trade to Persia, which is their only resource, ceasing, they will be utterly ruined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 96.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 23. Political.)
Salonica, May 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 25th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the return of insurgents to their homes, consequent on the amnesty, and complaining of the little respect paid by the authorities at Salonica to Her Majesty's birthday.

Also a copy of my despatch of the same date, to Her Majesty's Ambassador,

sending a translation of the amnesty published at Larissa, and the intended expedition of all the troops in Thessaly to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir,
Salonica, May 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, that on Tuesday, the 21st instant, a Hellenic man-of-war, the "Iris," arrived here, having on board some insurgents from Athens, returning to their homes at Colindro, near Mount Olympus.

One of these men was recognized by a Jew, and accused of being one of a party present when a Jew was killed, and he was seized and put into prison by the authorities here.

I sent immediately the dragoman of this Consulate, M. Bizzo, to the defterdar and to the Commander of the troops, to plead the amnesty granted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and the cessation of hostilities brought about by Her Majesty's Government, and the man was then set at liberty and an apology made.

Moreover, I caused "teskerehs," or permits of safe conduct, to be given by the authorities to these twenty-three persons (whilom insurgents) who are returning to their homes.

But I have to complain of the conduct of the authorities here, viz., the Defterdar, who is acting as Governor-General, and the Musteschar, Constantinides Pasha, for not having come themselves to compliment me, as the Representative of Her Majesty's Government in this city, on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday; although I duly gave them an official notice in writing two days ago that Her Majesty's birthday would be celebrated to-day, the 25th instant, and a public reception be held from 10 o'clock A.M. to 2 o'clock P.M.

At 4 o'clock they sent M. Constantinides' brother, accompanied by the Chief of Police, a man of whom I do not even know the name, to represent them; but under the circumstances I do not consider this visit to be an adequate public acknowledgment of respect paid to Her Majesty the Queen's birthday, which is celebrated in every part of the world, not only by Englishmen, but also by all friendly nations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir,
Salonica, May 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Amnesty published at Larissa since the meeting of Consuls Blunt and Merlin with the insurgents at Carditza, which I have just received from Mr. Suter. I do not report to your Excellency the details of events Mr. Suter sends me, because Mr. Consul Blunt will have done so in furtherance of his mission, but only take the liberty of bringing to your Excellency's notice that the Imperial Iradé enjoins the Governor of Larissa not only to accord pardon, but also to assist the necessitous with cattle and loans from the Agricultural Bank.

Mr. Suter also informs me that nearly all the troops in Thessaly will be sent to Salonica.

Here we learn that they are to be embarked for Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 96.

Translation of Amnesty in Greek, published at Larissa, on the 1st May, 1878.

Au Gouverneur de Larisse.

NOUS vous annonçons et vous recommandons que vous communiquiez dès à présent que les habitants non Musulmans qui ont été trompés, ou forcés par quelques perturbateurs, et ont rejoint les bandes insurrectionnelles; maintenant qu'ils viennent déposer les armes ayant recours du Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte, offrant leur soumission et demandant à être rapatriés, et qu'en futur ils se comporteront sagement et honnêtement en obtenant leur Amnistie, ayant été pardonnés de tout ce qu'ils ont commis au passé sans qu'ils soient soumis à des punitions.

19 *Avril*, 1294 (1 *Mai*, 1878).

Au Gouverneur de Larisse.

Vu, que localement il nous a été communiqué que les habitants non Musulmans du Sandjak, qui ont été seduits et éparpillés par des perturbateurs, demandent à être repatriés, et attendu que l'Amnistie a été promulguée par Iradé Impériale, la demande étant transmise à la Sublime Porte, et par sa dépêche du 24 Avril, 1878, réponse a été reçue ordonnant d'accorder indulgence aux susdits habitants, et qu'ils peuvent se repatrier dans leurs pays respectifs, et que les propriétaires des "Tchifliks" [farms] leur accordent les demeures nécessaires, le bétail, &c. Quant aux habitants nécessiteux des villages, qu'il leur soit accordé des secours, tant que possible, par la Banque d'Agriculture.

Communiquez tout cela au public et tâchez de faire exécuter le contenu de l'Iradé Impériale.

No. 97.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 24. Political.)

Salonica, May 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information (Inclosure No. 1 with three annexes), a copy of my despatch of the 28th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, inclosing copy of a letter and a Circular addressed to me by the Commander-in-chief of the insurgents in the Rhodope Mountains, soliciting, on the part of the Mussulman population of Thrace, the protection of Her Majesty's Government against the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, May 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAD the honour yesterday to telegraph to your Excellency as follows:—

"British Ambassador, Therapia. Director of Telegraph will not send my cyphered despatch. Please send order by telegraph from Porte. Barker."

I have the honour to inclose herewith a letter addressed to me by the person commanding the insurgents in the Rhodope Mountains, inclosing a translation of the Circular addressed by him to the Representatives of European Powers at Constantinople, and a note addressed to Lord Beaconsfield, which he begs me to send in cypher.

This, after preparing the telegram in cypher to your Excellency, during two hours, I have not been able to do.

I inclose all three documents herewith to your Excellency, and I consider the Circular to be important, as it throws a light upon the motives of this movement among the Mussulman population of a large district in Thrace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Letter addressed to Consul Barker from the Insurgents in the Rhodope Mountains.

M. le Consul, *Parzmakly, le 18 Mai*, 1878.

EN réfécant à ma dépêche du 12 courant, que j'ai l'honneur de confirmer par la présente, je dois vous annoncer, que Mustapha Bey, Aide-de-camp de son Excellence Samih Pacha, délégué par la Sublime Porte pour pacifier le pays, s'est présenté à nos avant-postes le 16 courant (v.s.) et a eu une audience du Commandant-en-chef.

Les conditions posées par notre quartier-général ont été celles d'une simple suspension d'armes jusqu'à arrangement final de la question d'Orient. Il est néanmoins probable que son Excellence Samih Pacha viendra lui-même ces jours ci aux avant-postes.

Le Commandant a fixé le jour d'une telle conférence au 24, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous en donner avis. Je suis chargé de vous prier encore une fois de vous rendre à cette conférence, et d'y inviter les Consuls des autres Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris.

Ci-inclu une copie de la Circulaire adressée aux Représentants des Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris issue par le Gouvernement Provisoire Pomak, que j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer *pro memorid*.

Je suis aussi chargé de vous informer qu'une Commission de deux Musulmans et de deux Chrétiens, sous la présidence de Monseigneur Sophronios Protosigalos d'Ahyr Tchekbi, a été institué pour régler les différends entre les Chrétiens et les Musulmans du pays Pomak. Cette Commission étant absolument libre dans ses actions, et ayant droit d'adresser ses rapports directement à qui lui plaira, fut ce même avoir recours à la presse. D'un autre côté la gendarmerie organisée par le Commandant des troupes est tenue de prêter main forte à la Commission en cas de besoin. Grâces à ces mesures le calme le plus parfait et la sécurité la plus absolue régne dedans de nos avant-postes. Ce qui helas! n'est pas le cas en dehors de ceux-ci. Les Bulgares s'y livrent aux abus, et même aux crimes les plus honteux.

Pour donner une exemple de la tolérance de notre Gouvernement Provisoire je puis citer le fait que les Bulgares du village Derekeniler ont, il y a de cela deux mois, attaqué le village Musulman de Kurzily pendant que les habitants males étaient à la foire de Lydja. Ils y ont volés une somme de 100,000 piastres, violés les femmes, et assassiné un vieillard, et maltraités le reste. A la suite d'une enquête détaillée ces faits ont été avoués même par les Bulgares. Mais comme les villegeois ont prétendu que les coupables s'étaient échappés, on n'a nullement puni le village.

Je dois aussi vous faire savoir que les Bulgares ont commis des excès sans nombre dans les villages Grecs, et ont profanés des églises, et violés des femmes.

En un mot, M. le Consul, nous désirons ardemment que l'Europe sache le vrai état des choses.

Par ordre du Commandant-en-chef, je suis, Monsieur, &c.

(Signé) SERVER, *Chef d'Etat-Major.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 97.

Circular.

(Traduction.)

LE Gouvernement Provisoire Pomak aux Représentants des Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris à Constantinople.

Lorsque l'Herzégovine s'est révoltée contre notre auguste Souverain, les Représentants des Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris se sont empressés d'envoyer leurs Consuls de Serajevo vers les Chefs insurgés afin de s'enquérir des causes qui leur avaient mis les armes à la main.

Et cependant c'était là une rébellion contre un Pouvoir reconnu par l'Europe, et protégé par un Traité solennel liant tous les Gouvernements civilisés au maintien de son intégrité et de son indépendance.

A la suite de cette démarche des Consuls apparut la note du Comte Andrassy, laquelle détaillait les causes supposées justes de plaintes du peuple Chrétien de l'Herzégovine-Bosnie, ainsi que formulant les réformes que l'Autriche, et après cela l'Europe, considérait comme nécessaires pour amener la pacification des provinces insurgées.

Comme nous avons eu l'honneur de le dire, les Puissances se sont alors intéressées à des insurgés, c'est-à-dire, à des hommes qui violaient les lois du pays et même le Traité de Paris, alors en force absolue.

Mais les intérêts de l'humanité parlèrent assez puissamment pour que les Puissances crurent nécessaire de mettre de côté le strict devoir que leur imposait la loi internationale et les Traités jurés.

Or, le cas de la nation que nous avons l'honneur de gouverner d'une manière provisoire est tout autre; et légalement l'Europe est non seulement dans son droit mais est moralement et officiellement tenue de s'enquérir des causes de notre prise d'armes.

Nous ajouterons, *pro memoriâ*, et jusqu'à l'enquête officielle de la part des Puissances signataires, que nous ne nous sommes révoltés contre personne, que nous n'avons pris les armes, qu'afin de défendre notre vie et nos biens, et qu'en le faisant nous avons usés du droit incontestable de défense personnelle, tout en ne violant aucun Traité, ni ne nous révoltants contre aucun pouvoir légal.

Vos Excellences doivent avouer que le Traité de San Stefano n'est pas encore un acte portant la sanction d'un Traité international. C'est une simple Convention provisoire entre la Porte et la Russie sujette à discussion et amendement de la part des Puissances Européennes, et n'ayant valeur de Traité stable et liant, que le jour où, grâce à la sanction des Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris, celui-ci sera abrogé et remplacé par une Convention Européenne nouvelle.

Or, nous devons protester hautement contre l'attentat injustifiable des autorités Russo-Bulgares du 15 Avril, quand une colonne forte de 9 bataillons et de 2 batteries régulières, renforcée de 15,000 Bachi-Bazouks Bulgares, a attaquée et brûlée douze villages Musulmans, sans cause aucune, outre de celle de nous intimider, et d'exécuter en pleine paix et par force le Traité jusqu'ici invalide de San Stefano.

Ce seul fait, Excellences, devrait engager les Puissances que vous représentez à intervenir et à empêcher une inutile et illégale effusion de sang.

En effet, il y a une énorme différence entre notre position et celle des insurgés de l'Herzégovine. Nous ne nous révoltons contre personne, et nous défendons un Traité encore en force, de sorte que toute attaque contre nous est un acte de piraterie et non un acte de guerre.

Nous prions donc l'Europe, ou de nous garantir la neutralité de la Russie, ou si cette Puissance veut nous attaquer avant que l'Europe n'ent décidé de notre sort, de nous reconnaître les droits des belligérents.

Nous devons ajouter que les crimes les plus odieux ont été commis par les Bulgares, et que la Russie, qui s'est posée, en ce moment, comme libératrice et organisatrice de ce peuple, semble parfaitement incapable de tenir ce peuple sauvage en ordre.

Que donc, il nous est impossible de permettre à toute force armée de pénétrer par notre ligne d'avant-postes, car non seulement ce pays est presque purement Musulman, mais nous avons chez nous plus de 100,000 réfugiés, et pendant l'occupation Russo-Bulgare, nous avons des victimes d'atrocités sans noms ni nombre.

Nous devons aussi expliquer les raisons qui nous ont poussés à former un Gouvernement Provisoire.

Les Russo-Bulgares ayant envahis ce pays, à la suite de la signature du Traité de San Stefano, et avec le consentement des autorités Impériales, nous sommes restés sans Souverain reconnu légalement; car malgré que Sa Majesté Impériale nous cédait à la Bulgarie, nous ne pouvons, avant ratification de l'Europe, accepter le Gouvernement Bulgare comme définitivement légal.

En outre, les excès les plus hideux et les crimes sans nom signallant la présence des libérants et des libérés; ce peuple n'a pu y tenir, et a pris les armes, refoulant les maraudeurs. Ceci ayant eu lieu, il y aurait désordre dans le pays si nous n'avions pas de suite constitué un Gouvernement, et une police, qui a tenu ce pays en ordre, et a empêché tout acte de représaille. Aussi aujourd'hui, dans l'intérieur de notre ligne d'avant-postes, il règne un calme parfait et une sécurité entière pour tous, ce qui n'est pas le cas au-delà des avant-postes Russes.

En terminant cette circulaire, permettons-nous de protester, on ne peut plus énergiquement, contre le Traité de San Stéfano, et de vous prier, Excellences, d'envoyer tels délégués qu'il vous plaira pour vous assurer de la différence qui existe entre la partie de la Turquie d'Europe gouvernée par les Musulmans et celle aux mains de Russo-Bulgares.

Nous devons encore vous supplier de ne pas céder à la [?] Bulgarie une pouce de terrain sud-ouest de la Maritza, car les 4,000,000 de Musulmans sous nos ordres préféraient mourir que de se soumettre à un Gouvernement souillé de crimes inouïs et à jamais notre ennemi.

Nous vous prions aussi de supplier Sa Majesté le Sultan de ne pas oublier ses enfants, et de démontrer à Sa Majesté que le Traité de San Stéfano n'est pas valide, tant qu'il n'a pas été ratifié par un Congrès Européen, lequel seul a le droit d'abroger le Traité de Paris.

En attendant la décision de l'Europe, nous garantissons que la plus stricte discipline sera entretenue dans notre armée nationale, et qu'aucun acte arbitraire ne sera commis.

Par ordre du Gouvernement Provisoire,
(Signé) SERVER, *Chef d'Etat-Major.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 97.

Letter addressed to Lord Beaconsfield by the Commander-in-chief of the Provisional Government in the Rhodope Mountains.

LES habitants Musulmans du Rhodope supplient Sa Majesté la Reine de les prendre sous sa protection, et d'empêcher l'exécution prématurée du Traité de San Stéfano, laquelle entraînerait des massacres inouïs. Ils se soumettront aux lois et à la discipline Anglaise, et prient que deux bataillons Anglais y fussent débarqués pour y maintenir l'ordre.

Le Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) HYDAYET.

And on the back:

Will you kindly telegraph the inclosed in cypher.

(Signed) HYDAYET, *Commander-in-chief.*

No. 98.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 30. Political.)

My Lord, *Odessa, May 31, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26, Political, of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a report by Mr. France, on the bombardment of Theodosia by the Turks on the 13th January last.

Mr. France is an Englishman long resident at Theodosia. He estimates the damage done at 2,500 roubles, equivalent to about 250*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Report.

ON the 1st January, 1878, about 10 A.M., a small coasting schooner passed the point of Theodosia under full sail. Instead of gaining the port she carried on to the north-east of the Bay, where she anchored in shallow water, and near the shore. The atmosphere was then quite clear, with a steady breeze from south-west which continued till evening, when the wind dropped, and snow commenced shortly after 5 o'clock.

At exactly 10·30 A.M., a three-masted iron-clad, flying Turkish colours, and painted bluish grey, passed the point, and shortening speed, with great caution approached the port, announcing her arrival by two blank shots (10·20 A.M.); evidently she was in chase of the schooner, and having lost sight, the Commander directing his attention to the port, and seeing many fishing boats, barges, &c., at anchor, sent six shells in their midst. Two of these shells came on shore. One exploded in the court-yard of a house erected on the beach, and beyond breaking the window-glass did no damage. The other fell in the street near the post-office (in direct line with the jetty) and did not explode. No damage was done to the boats, &c.

During the above, a second iron-clad, somewhat smaller, painted black, had approached the port, and having discovered the whereabouts of the schooner, fired three shots at her without effect. Two shells from the same vessel were fired shortly afterwards in the open of the quarantine, and were aimed at a company of soldiers, who were then running to take up their previous appointed position; both shells exploded without doing the least damage to life or property.

On the mast and topmast heads of both ships were posted men, who evidently directed the rest of the firing, which was directed on the troops retiring from the town, and in which both ships took part. Twelve shells were fired, and came to land (of these four did not explode) with the following effect: one soldier, and two horses he was leading, were killed, and a gipsy woman, who was in her hovel in the outskirts of the town, seriously wounded. The damage to property in the town was confined to two houses; in the outskirts one house was damaged, and the hovel of the gipsy woman who was wounded was knocked to pieces.

Shortly after 11 A.M., the Russian artillery arrived in position on the hill north of the point and opened fire on the two ships, which for some time did not reply, being occupied with their fire on the troops who were now fast getting out of sight and range. Ultimately, the largest ship fired six shots at the battery, two of which fell at the foot, the other four fell short and in the sea. Apparently the elevation on which the battery was posted (about 85 feet) above the sea was insurmountable at the distance; and the shallowing of the water would have rendered it dangerous for such a ship to come much nearer. The Russians fired eight shots, all of which fell very short.

For some time the black frigate had been silent, when at about three minutes' interval she fired two shots, which, I suppose, were aimed at the barracks, a large building in the middle of the town, and very conspicuous from the sea; the first exploded in a courtyard, doing very trifling damage to a wall; the second touching the gable end of a high two-storied house on the sea shore, fell on the roof of the house adjoining and did not explode. Both shots were in direct line with the centre of the barracks. This ended the engagement.

At exactly 12 A.M. the Turks fired the last shot and, without changing their position, dropped anchor. At 4 P.M. the smaller frigate steamed out to sea, and at 6·30 P.M. was followed by the larger one. Snow was then falling, but from the shore it could be seen that she saluted with her flag three times.

On recapitulation it will be seen that the Turks fired thirty-one shots, of which twenty came to land and eleven fell in the sea. Of those that came to land six did not explode. After careful inspection I estimate the total damage done to property, all of which is detailed in the foregoing, could be repaired for the sum of 2,500 roubles.

(Signed) W. FRANCE.

No. 99.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, June 6.)

Athènes, le $\frac{2}{14}$ Mai, 1878.

Monsieur,

LES Représentants du Gouvernement Ottoman dans l'Ile de Crète ayant violé les conditions concernant l'armistice conclu dans le mois de Mars, les hostilités ont recommencé entre les insurgés et les troupes Ottomanes et des engagements n'ont pas cessé d'avoir lieu.

L'Ile de Crète possède trois villes: La Canée, Rethymne, et Candie. Ces villes, entourées de forteresses importantes, ont toujours servi d'asile à la population Musulmane de l'Ile, et continue à jouir le même rôle depuis le commencement de l'insurrection. Les insurgés n'ont jamais tenté de s'emparer de ces forts et d'occuper les villes précitées, attendu qu'ils sont privées des moyens exigés par la science militaire pour le siége et la prise des forts. De l'autre côté, les Musulmans qui étaient disséminés sur différents points de l'Ile, ayant abandonné leurs foyers, ont afflué dans les villes sus-mentionnées.

Par conséquent, l'Ile entière est restée entre les mains des Chrétiens, tous en état d'insurrection, sans qu'aucun Musulman pût sortir pendant cet intervalle des villes précitées pour visiter ses propriétés, ou pour tout autre affaire.

Ces trois villes sont devenues inaccessibles à la population insurgée de Crète, et nul ne pouvait y entrer, soit pour affaire de commerce, soit pour acheter des choses nécessaires. Les Chrétiens qui demeuraient auparavant dans les villes ont continué à y

séjourner exposés à tous les dangers dont ils étaient menacés par les différentes péripéties de l'insurrection. Ils subissent toutes sortes d'avanies et de mauvais traitements de la part des Musulmans, qui ont la faculté de porter des armes, et jouissent de la protection exclusive des autorités Ottomanes établies dans les villes. D'ailleurs, vu la grande agglomération des Musulmans accourus de tous les points de l'île, ils exercent une forte pression sur les autorités mêmes, qui sont impuissantes de leur résister.

Par suite de cet état de choses, une zone a été nécessairement tracée en dehors de ces villes, et par ce moyen, les habitants des villes se virent privés de la faculté d'en sortir, tandis que tout accès dans les villes fut interdit à ceux qui demeuraient en dehors de leur enceinte. L'une des lignes de cette zone est gardée par des Musulmans et l'autre est protégée par une garnison des Chrétiens.

Les habitants de l'Ile de Crète se sont soulevés sans aucun secours venu du dehors, et, en effet, on ne compte dans les rangs des insurgés aucun habitant soit du Royaume Hellénique, soit d'une toute autre province Grecque, qui ait prêté son concours et pris une part active à la lutte Crétoise.

Quelques Crétois seulement, parmi ceux qui pendant les événements de 1868 avaient cherché asile en Grèce, sont retournés en Crète dès que l'insurrection a éclaté. Ainsi la lutte Crétoise a été soutenue sans aucun élément étranger, et les Chrétiens ont proclamé par l'organe de leurs représentants légitimes, ainsi que par tout autre moyen, que l'insurrection avait pour but leur union avec la Grèce.

En effet, c'est là, l'unique désir des chefs des insurgés, de l'Assemblée de l'Ile, de tous ceux qui s'occupent à établir une Administration quelconque sur les points occupés par les insurgés et de toute la population Crétoise.

Mais en attendant, l'Assemblée n'a pas manqué de s'occuper de l'Administration des localités acquises de l'insurrection. A cet effet elle a établi une Commission, chargée du Gouvernement Central de l'Ile, et de plus, elle a eu soin d'établir des Administrations locales sur différents points, et dans toute l'étendue de l'île, pour protéger les personnes et leurs intérêts.

J'ai cru nécessaire d'entrer dans ces explications pour la plus grande intelligence des renseignements contenus dans le dernier rapport du Consul de Sa Majesté à la Canée, sub No. 103, et en date du $\frac{7}{19}$ courant; et dans celui du Vice-Consul à Réthymne, sub No. 51, et en date du $\frac{7}{19}$ courant.

Vous trouverez ci-joint des exemplaires lithographiés de la traduction Française de ces rapports, et je vous prie de saisir, le plus tôt possible, la première occasion d'une entrevue avec M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour lui donner lecture de la présente, et des rapports y annexés. Je pensé que nous avons le devoir d'exposer la véritable situation des affaires dans l'Ile de Crète, car de cette manière nous pouvons jeter une vive lumière sur la question, et mettre l'Europe à même de rendre la justice, que les habitants de cette île si éprouvée attendent avec impatience des Cabinets Européens.

Indépendamment des deux rapports précités, je vous transmets un exemplaire lithographié de la traduction Française, et un autre rapport, sub No. 3, du Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté à Candie.

La communication des rapports du Consul de Sa Majesté à la Canée, et du Vice-Consul de Rethymne, contribuera à ce que le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité soit renseigné sur la situation actuelle de l'Ile de Crète, et sur les derniers événements qui s'y sont accomplis. Le rapport du Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté, que je vous prie également de communiquer, présente un tableau saisissant de l'état déplorable des Chrétiens dans les localités accessibles aux Musulmans et aux armées Turques.

Si son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères vous demandait un extrait de la présente, vous ne le refuserez pas, comme aussi vous pourrez lui laisser copie, s'il le désire, des rapports ci-annexés de nos autorités Consulaires en Crète.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) TH. P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure in No. 99.

M. Kiparissi to M. Delyanni.

Heraclion, le 7 Mai, 1878.

LES craintes que j'exprimais dans ma dernière dépêche au sujet des Bachi-Bazouks que l'on avait armés ont été justifié par l'événement; en effet, les Bachi-Bazouks qui accompagnaient les troupes régulières partant, Dimanche dernier, pour

la province de Mousfassi, loin de se plier à l'ordre et à la discipline observés par l'armée, ainsi que s'en flattait Costaki Pacha, qui leur avait fait donner des armes, se sont separés de l'armée et prenaient une autre direction; ils se sont rendus au village de Plakiotissa, là ils ont livré un petit combat contre quelques corps d'insurgés Chrétiens, venant du Monastère de St. Georges, où ils étaient allés la veille pour capturer six Turcs, voleurs de bétail, relachés par eux ensuite à la prière du supérieur du dit couvent. Ces insurgés venaient d'arriver à Plakiotissa sous la conduite de leurs chefs, le Capitaine Karalambi et les frères Maralis. Les Bachi-Bazouks les ont provoqué et ils s'en suivit un engagement qui dura quatre heures; deux Turcs y ont été tués et six blessés; les Chrétiens y ont eu deux morts et un blessé, dont l'un était le brave Nikolataki. Dans cet engagement les Chrétiens paraissent avoir eu dessus puisqu'ils ont forcé les Turcs à se replier sur le village de Ligortino, mais à la tombe de la nuit survint la troupe régulière avec d'autres Bachi-Bazouks au nombre de 2,000 environ; alors les Chrétiens se virent forcés à leur tour de battre en retraite vers le village de Karaka, mais avant de se retirer ils brûlèrent l'hôtel de ville de Pyrgos, où devait prendre ses cantonnements la troupe régulière qui avait appuyé les Bachi-Bazouks.

Le lendemain les Turcs, furieux contre les Chrétiens, qui leur avaient tué quelques hommes, se sont rendus, au nombre de trente environ, à Pyrgos, mais n'y trouvaient d'autres Chrétiens. Ils ont massacré un vieillard de ce village âgé de quatre-vingts ans et nommé Zakari, son beau frère Orphanos et la femme Karpathioti; puis ils ont essayé de marcher sur Karaka, pour y commettre aussi quelques assassinats. En suivant cette direction ils ont été rencontrés par des insurgés; ceux-ci ont tiré sur eux et leur ont tué un homme, celui qui était revêtu des habits ensanglantés de la femme qu'il avait violée et égorgée, ce qui irrita vivement les Chrétiens; ensuite ils leur ont donné la chasse, et en arrivant à Pyrgos, où étaient restés quelques uns des trente Turcs, ils ne les y ont pu trouver, mais ils ont pu constater un autre odieux forfait commis par eux sur la personne d'un garçon de douze ans qu'ils avaient tué et jeté dans un puits après attente à sa pudeur.

(Signé) KIPARISSI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

The Greek Consul at Canea to M. Delyanni.

(Traduction.) *La Canée, le 7 Mai*, 1878.

MALGRÉ toutes les assurances données par Salih Pasha, Gouverneur Militaire de Candie, au Consul d'Angleterre, à qui il affirmait que ses ordres lui prescrivaient de ne pas attaquer les Chrétiens, ainsi que je l'écrivais dans mon rapport de la semaine passée, les troupes Turques ont attaqué les insurgés dans la nuit de Mercredi dernier, sur différents points. L'attaque était dirigé contre les Chrétiens campés à Platania, Alikiano, et Modi. Des combats meurtriers ont été livrés, auxquels ont participé tous les corps des Bachi-Bazouks, appelés sous les drapeaux par des crieurs publics. Au combat du premier jour ont figuré neuf bataillons de troupes régulières et 1,500 Bachi-Bazouks indigènes; ils ne réussirent pourtant pas à occuper toute la ligne depuis Alikiano jusqu'à Modi, les Chrétiens, qui étaient moins nombreux, y ayant opposé une vive résistance. La seconde fois, les Turcs, qui ont encore attaqué de nuit, ont pu, vers midi, occuper le village d'Alikiano, après un combat où l'artillerie avait fait beaucoup de mal aux Chrétiens. Mais à midi on continuait de se battre pendant toute la journée de Vendredi. Le bruit court que les Turcs, tant réguliers qu'irréguliers, qui pénètrent dans les villages dont ils s'étaient rendus maîtres, maltraitent les Chrétiens qu'ils y avaient trouvés, sans armes, et pour la défense desquels ils s'étaient, disaient-ils, mis en campagne, pillèrent les maisons et transportèrent sur des mulets, à la Canée et à Kalepa, le butin fait par les Bachi-Bazouks et qu'on promenait avec ostentation à travers les rues de ces villes. Des hommes inoffensifs ont été tués, dit-on; les pertes essuyées des deux côtés ne sont pas encore connues. A Kalyvés et à Megala-Khoraphia (district d'Apocorona) des escarmouches et même des combats avaient toujours lieu entre les Turcs et les insurgés, mais je n'en connais pas les résultats. Le Gouverneur-Général est de retour depuis Samedi matin. A peine avait-il quitté Rethymne, qu'un combat meurtrier s'y engageait qui a duré presque toute la journée, d'après le télégramme ci-joint de notre Vice-Consul en cette résidence.

Inclosure 3 in No. 99.

M. Petychaki to M. Delyanni.

(Traduction.)

M. le Ministre, *Rethymne, le 2 Mai*, 1878.

DANS ma dépêche du 29 Avril dernier, j'écrivais à votre Excellence que cinq délégués des habitants de certains villages, situés près de la ville, avaient remis au Gouverneur une pétition, par laquelle ils demandaient à être protégés pour descendre dans la plaine et opérer leur récolte. Le Gouverneur-Général de Candie étant venu et ayant pris connaissance de cette pétition, a mandé auprès de lui ces Délégués, les a rassurés et leur a dit qu'ils n'avaient rien à craindre, qu'ils pouvaient descendre dans la plaine avec leurs familles et reprendre en toute sécurité leurs travaux agricoles, qu'ils pouvaient même descendre armés, pour plus de précaution.

Les paysans encouragés ainsi, commencèrent à descendre et les communications se rétablirent. Le Gouverneur-Général engagea aussi les Musulmans à descendre, mais ils n'y consentirent point. Il voulait former une milice mixte, mais il n'y réussit pas. Il eut même idée de transférer le sous-préfecture à Mylopotamo, mais il hésita à le faire; aucun des habitants des districts d'Amari et de St. Basile n'étant rentré dans ses foyers.

Cependant quelques uns des Chefs militaires de Mylopotamo venus à Stavromeno ont écrit qu'ils désiraient s'entendre avec le sous-préfet, celui-ci leur a envoyé son assesseur et le sous-préfet de Mylopotamo qui se trouvait ici. Les sus-dits Chefs ont dit à ces délégués que, d'après leurs informations, le Pacha se proposait d'envoyer des troupes dans leurs districts et que si elles venaient, elles y seraient mal accueillies, que les Musulmans pourraient descendre avec leurs familles ou seuls, comme ils voudraient, mais sans armes, pour opérer leurs récoltes, de même que les Chrétiens entraient sans armes dans la ville.

C'est ainsi qu'agissait le Gouverneur-Général pour faire voir que le district de Rethymne est resté tranquille, mais tous les efforts qu'il a fait dans ce but sont demeurés sans résultat.

Cependant il reprimanda très-sévèrement les Turcs pour les dégoûts commis par eux aux environs de la ville et, en ayant obtenu la promesse qu'ils se tiendraient désormais tranquilles, il repartit pour la Canée.

Aussitôt après son départ, les insurgés, venus de St. Basile et d'Amari, ont livré un combat à Ambelaki près Castello, contre les troupes régulières qui s'y trouvaient.

La nouvelle en a été, en un clin d'œil, répandue dans la ville, et plusieurs irréguliers indigènes se sont empressés de sortir de Rethymne, pour participer au combat, qui s'est prolongé jusqu'à la nuit. Les insurgés ont gardé leurs positions et brûlé deux tours; plusieurs Turcs tués ou blessés ont été transportés ici. Nous ne savons pas au juste, jusqu'à ce moment, quelles pertes ont essuyées les insurgés.

Je n'ai pas manqué d'informer de ce combat notre Consul à la Canée; vous trouverez sous ce pli copie du télégramme que je lui ai expédié à cet effet.

Une chose digne de remarque c'est que, de l'aveu même des Turcs, avant que le combat se fut engagé, le Chef des insurgés avait prévenu les Turcs sortis d'Ambelaki, pour se procurer du foin et du bois, qu'il se proposait d'attaquer la troupe et les avait invités à se retirer pour ne pas exposer inutilement leur vie.

P.S.—Ce matin sont sortis beaucoup de Turcs et, dans l'après-midi, on annonçait qu'ils se battaient contre les insurgés à Castello; le combat continue; nous entendons ici le bruit des détonations; les Turcs ont épuisé leurs munitions et ils viennent d'envoyer ici quelques hommes pour en chercher d'autres.

(Signé) PETYCHAKI.

No. 100.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 6.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Juin*, 1878.

SON Altesse le Prince Reuss m'a adressé avant-hier, 3 Juin, une note pour inviter la Sublime Porte à participer, comme Puissance signataire des Traités de 1856 et 1871, au Congrès qui doit se réunir à Berlin le 13 de ce mois. J'ai répondu à l'Ambassadeur de l'Allemagne que la Sublime Porte remercie le Cabinet de Berlin de cette communication, et accepte l'invitation qui lui est faite. J'ai déclaré en même temps que nous

consentons à permettre, conformément à la proposition du Gouvernement d'Allemagne, la libre discussion de la totalité du contenu de l'acte de San Stefano et à y participer.

No. 101.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 6, 1878, 1 P.M.*

URGE the Porte to take necessary steps to ratify without delay concession granted to Eastern Telegraph Company. Further delay will cause great expense and inconvenience.

No. 102.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to the advice given by your Lordship to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, that the Greek Government should have a Representative in readiness at Berlin, Minister for Foreign Affairs starts this week.

No. 103.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 6, 1878.*

RUSSIAN influence, with the support of the German Consul, again brought to bear here with respect to an amicable understanding concerning Bessarabia, but apparently without any practical result.

No. 104.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 6, 1878.*

THE Cabinet met yesterday to discuss following measures:—

1. The proclamation of a state of siege and martial law.
2. The convocation of Parliament to discuss anti-Socialist measures over again.
3. The dissolution of Parliament and appeal to the country for a more Conservative majority.

Prince Bismarck inclines towards the latter course.

No. 105.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 6, 1878.*

DECREE empowering the Crown Prince to act for the Emperor during His Majesty's illness has only been published this evening. The improvement in the Emperor's health continues.

No. 106.

Lord Tenterden to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 6, 1878.*

LORD SALISBURY wishes you to go to Berlin. You should arrive there before the end of next week.

No. 107.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 685.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from the Eastern Telegraph Company,* complaining of the continued delay of the Porte in the ratification of the concession granted by them to the Company; and I have to request your Excellency to urge the Porte to take the necessary steps to ratify this concession as soon as possible, and to explain that the prolonged delay is productive of great expense and much inconvenience.

I have sent to your Excellency similar instructions by telegraph this day.

I further inclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of correspondence on this subject.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 108.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 702.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 590 of the 9th ultimo, calling attention to the services rendered by Mr. Odoni, Unpaid British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, in connection with Her Majesty's fleet, I have to acquaint you that I have recommended that gentleman to the favourable consideration of the Board of Treasury, for a gratuity in recognition of the able manner in which he has discharged the duties entrusted to him, and as soon as I receive a reply from the Board of Treasury, I shall not fail to apprize your Excellency of the amount which may be awarded to him.

With regard to the establishment of a salaried Vice-Consulate at Gallipoli, I think that it would be best that this question should be reserved for consideration when the general question of the re-arrangement of the British Consular establishments in Turkey is taken in hand.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 109.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Callimaki-Catargi.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1878.*

IN reply to the communication made by you at this Office on the 4th instant, I have the honour to state to you that Her Majesty's Government see no objection in principle to a Mandataire or Delegate being sent to Berlin to explain to the Congress, in a consultative capacity, the views and wishes of the Roumanian Government, but it is not a matter on which Her Majesty's Government can give a definitive opinion until they have ascertained the light in which it may be regarded by the Congress.

Her Majesty's Government will further be prepared to use their influence, so far

* See Part XXV, No. 742. † Ibid., Nos. 606 and 633.

as they can properly do so at the Congress with the Russian Government, to obtain the relaxation of the military measures of which M. Cogalniceano complains.

They regret that it is impossible for them to give an answer as to the policy to be pursued with regard to the question of Bessarabia, until they know more accurately what other Powers intend to do.

I have, &c
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 110.

Consul T. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, May 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed copy of a telegram I have received from some Circassian Chiefs at Denizli, a town about 160 miles to the south of Smyrna, offering to place themselves and 1,000 volunteers of their race at the service of Her Majesty's Government in the event of a declaration of war.

I immediately replied by telegraph that the offer would be communicated to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Circassian Chiefs to Consul T. Reade.

(Telegraphic.) *Denizli, May 22 1878.*

WE have read in some papers that the English Government are enrolling volunteers. This is to inform you that, if required, there are 1,000 Circassian cavaliers with us ready for service at Denizli. We expect an immediate answer through the telegraph of Denizli.

(Signed) ISMAIL BEY.
MOUSTAFA.
OSMAN.

No. 111.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 58. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, May 27, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a French squadron, consisting of the "Gauloise," "Guyenne," and "Couronne," iron-clad frigates, and the dispatch boat "Talouche Treville," under the command of Rear-Admiral Lejeune, arrived in Suda Bay on the 23rd and 24th instant, coming from Syra, and will leave to-day for the Piræus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 112.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 544.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 7, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL DUSSI reports from Rodosto that some 3,000 Christians, Bulgarians and others, commanded by one Tchalok Parasko of Kurtulu, are sacking Mussulman villages and massacring inhabitants in districts of Malgare, Haiza, Bol Chukeni, and Rodosto. Mussulman population is flying, many arriving at Rodosto wounded. Russian authorities are now taking steps to suppress movement, which

might have been prevented had Christians, like Mussulmans, been disarmed from the first. M. Dussi severely blames conduct of Provisional Government.

No. 113.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 545.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 529, Mr. Calvert writes from Adrianople on 4th instant that general Russian attack on insurgent positions has failed with heavy loss. Insurgents have mountain guns, and appear to have been successful in several encounters.

No. 114.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 127. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 7, 1878.*

I LEARN from private source that Russia is concentrating a large force toward Austrian frontier, and that Field Marshal Prince Bariatinsky is to command it. There is also a considerable Russian force in Roumania to watch Carpathian passes of Transylvania.

No. 115.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 7, 1878.*

THE Prince of Montenegro has telegraphed to my colleagues and me complaining that the conduct of the frontier tribes near Goussinie and Plava tends to bring about a collision, and that it is said that Pasha is not a stranger to it. The complaint is made boldly against some Roman Catholic Chiefs.

I have telegraphed to His Highness that the Pasha has again formally assured the Consul that nothing aggressive need be feared from his side, and that a conflict can only arise from an attack on the Turkish positions.

I have also expressed the conviction that his Excellency's attestations are sincere, and that his orders are that no difficulties are to be stirred up on the frontier. At Plava the transpositions (?) have been reinforced, as the Montenegrins have countermarched (two groups unintelligible) east near that place.

No. 116.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 7, 1878.*

BARON HAYMERLE, Austrian Ambassador in Rome, has been instructed to accompany Count Andrassy as Plenipotentiary to the Congress, and leaves for Vienna this evening.

No. 117.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Rome, June 7, 1878, 3 P.M.*

COUNT CORTI informs me that the Cabinet has this morning approved of the instructions to the Italian Plenipotentiaries drawn up in accordance with his own views,

and that he will leave on Sunday for Berlin. Your Lordship will understand this telegram better after receiving my despatches sent by the messenger of the 5th instant.

No. 118.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

Tehran, June 7, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received following telegram from Captain Napier, dated 2nd:—

"Good prospect at last of arrangement with Tekkeh. I may leave for Merve by end of month, but the Turcomans refuse to cross desert to Akhal at this season. If Government of India consider political object of visit to Merve of superior importance to exploration of routes, I should go now; in autumn events may render it impossible. Estimate special expense 1,000*l*. Abbas Khan returns shortly."

(Communicated to India.)

No. 119.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 7, 1878, 3·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

REPORT to me by telegraph how matter stands with regard to proposed addition to Customs duties for relief of refugees.

No. 120.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 705.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1878.*

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce expressing their objections against the proposal to raise the Turkish Customs duties in order to provide for the relief of the refugees in Constantinople, and I have to request your Excellency to report to me how this matter stands at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 121.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 672.) *Therapia, May 24, 1878.*

My Lord,

BEFORE receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 589 of the 9th instant, acting upon the information contained in Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatches as to the non-payment of the arrears of the annual subsidy from the Imperial Turkish revenues granted by the Porte to the Governor of Mount Lebanon, I had brought this subject to the notice of the Prime Minister, and had urged the importance of the fulfilment of the Porte's engagement. I had been assured by his Highness that the matter should receive his immediate attention. Dragoman Mariniteh, having been directed by me to ascertain whether steps had been taken for the payment of the money, informs me that a "Havilé," or order, was issued on the 5th instant upon the vilayet of Syria for the sum of 2,004,250 piastres to make up the arrears of the subsidy in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 122.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 673.) *Therapia, May 24, 1878.*

My Lord,

MR. WYNDHAM sends to your Lordship, in his despatch No. 335 of 20th May (a copy of which he has forwarded to me), a cutting from an Athens newspaper with reference to the ill-treatment of the Greeks in Roumelia by the Russians and Bulgarians. I have the honour to inclose a letter on the same subject which has appeared in the "Levant Herald," and which, although perhaps somewhat exaggerated in tone, is undoubtedly founded on fact, and is worthy of attention, as showing the feelings of bitter hatred and hostility now springing up between the Greek and Bulgarian populations inhabiting the provinces proposed to be included in the new Bulgarian Principality, and the danger to its tranquillity, and the public peace of Europe, if the Treaty of San Stefano is carried out with respect to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

Extract from the "Levant Herald."

LA BULGARIE SELON LE TRAITÉ DE SAN STEFANO.—GRECS ET BULGARES.—PROCÉDÉS DE RECENSEMENT RUSSES.—Un correspondant d'Andrinople, qui est en mesure d'être bien renseigné sur les procédés de l'Administration Russe en Bulgarie, nous adresse l'article suivant, en date du 20 Mai:

"La politique Panslaviste, toujours très-fertile en ressources, ne recule devant aucun moyen pour mener à bonne fin l'œuvre de destruction entreprise par elle contre l'Hellénisme en Macédoine et en Thrace. Elle a compris qu'on ne croit plus aux statistiques fantaisistes et insipides de quelques organes Panslavistes qui voient partout des Bulgares; qu'on n'ajoute plus qu'une foi médiocre aux correspondances publiées par le "Daily News" et inspirées probablement à leurs auteurs par les promesses religieuses que les Bulgares savent donner à temps. D'un autre côté elle a vu qu'une enquête minutieuse et impartiale sur la population ethnologique de ces provinces déjouerait ses desseins, dévoilerait ses mensonges. Aussi, changeant de tactique, cherche-t-elle aujourd'hui à atteindre son but, par des moyens d'une réalité plus palpable, semblable en tous points aux moyens employés par le fameux Mouravieff dans la pacification de la Pologne.

"Les journaux se sont assez récriés sur la manière dont la Commission Russo-Bulgare, instituée à cet effet, dressait ses tableaux de recensement. Il est défendu au Grec d'avoir conscience de sa propre nationalité; sur le simple témoignage d'un Bulgare quelconque venant déclarer qu'un de ses ancêtres était Bulgare, le Grec est immédiatement porté comme Bulgare. D'un autre côté, le Grec habitant ces contrées, y ayant un domicile fixe, mais n'y étant né, est omis dans l'inscription des habitants. En dépit de toutes ces précautions, et bien que dressés à deux reprises, les tableaux de recensement n'ont guère pu satisfaire la Commission, qui n'y trouvait pas la confirmation des chiffres Panslavistes. Un troisième recensement fut ordonné. Mais on jugea bon de prendre au préalable des mesures propres à assurer une grande majorité aux Bulgares. A cet effet, comme il a été déjà marqué, on a organisé de suite, conformément au système invétéré de l'invasion Slave, l'immigration de Bulgares venus d'au delà des Balkans, et leur installation dans les habitations Musulmanes à demi-détruites, il est vrai, par l'armée Russe, mais restaurées maintenant à l'usage de ces Bulgares émigrés. On voit dans ce fait l'explication de la nouvelle donnée dernièrement par quelques journaux Européens que la Russie consent à la modification des limites de la Bulgarie sur les bases de la majorité relative des Grecs ou des Bulgares. Après avoir assuré par de semblables immigrations la majorité Bulgare, il n'y aurait certes aucun inconvénient, pour le Gouvernement Russe, à reconnaître à ces peuples, au cas où l'Europe l'exigerait, le droit d'être consultés sur leurs aspirations.

"Nous dénonçons toutes ces manœuvres à l'Europe. Nous avons la conviction qu'elle ne se laissera pas en imposer par les faits accomplis, que prépare en ce moment l'infernale politique Panslaviste, pour la formation d'une Bulgarie selon ses vœux, et l'anéantissement des droits acquis par les races indigènes, sur les terres classiques de la Thrace et de la Macédoine. Il est vraiment triste de voir des personnes, dignes d'ailleurs de respect, se laisser encore séduire par ces articles Panslavistes. Il est encore plus triste de les entendre soutenir, au nom de l'humanité, la cause de la prescription de tout droit

naturel, de tout droit national acquis à des peuples qui n'endurent tant de maux que pour s'être considérés solidaires de la civilisation Européenne et des intérêts Européens et pour avoir refusé de servir d'instruments aux plans de conquête du Panslavisme.

"Ces peuples sont poussés aujourd'hui par la Russie comme des bêtes de somme sous la domination inqualifiable d'étrangers immigrés qui n'ont ni foi ni loi. De mille manières différentes ils se voient persécutés dans leur religion, dans leur langue, dans leur nationalité, dans leur fortune, dans leur honneur et même dans leur vie. Il n'y a pas jusqu'à l'impot de sang qu'ils ne soient contraints de payer aujourd'hui au *Bulgarisme*, qui cherche à étouffer leurs droits nationaux. Eh bien, plutôt que de se résigner à ces malheurs sans nom, ces peuples sont décidés à ne céder qu'après une lutte sanglante et désespérée. Déjà l'Europe assiste, à l'heure qu'il est, au drame terrible qui couvrira de ruine et arrosera de sang ces contrées, si jamais elles sont englobées, contre tout droit, dans la Principauté Bulgare. Si aujourd'hui l'armée Russe, occupant en nombre les principaux points stratégiques de ce pays, est impuissante contre une insurrection Musulmane établie en un seul district, que l'Europe, que la Russie elle-même, songent à ce qui arrivera le jour où tous les autres districts de la Thrace et de la Macédoine imiteront l'exemple—ce qu'ils feront indubitablement—de ce seul district, le jour où les Grecs, qui comptent dans leurs écoles 80,000 élèves, et qui peuvent fournir un nombre égal de combattants, prendront les armes à leur tour. Ainsi voilà deux mois, que l'insurrection Musulmane tient tête à l'armée Russe; le mouvement qu'on a appelé l'insurrection Bulgare, a duré trois jours, juste le temps nécessaire à l'arrivée sur les lieux de quelques centaines de Musulmans du pays. De ce simple rapprochement ne résulte-t-il pas forcément, que la Bulgarie, grâce aux frontières qu'on veut lui donner, se trouve d'avance condamnée à l'occupation perpétuelle d'une puissante armée active, qui aura, dans la nécessité de prévenir et de réprimer les insurrections, un prétexte toujours prêt pour ajourner indéfiniment son départ? En reculant les frontières de la Bulgarie en deçà des Balkans, en y faisant entrer les grandes majorités hellénique et Musulmane de la Thrace et de la Macédoine, il ne suffirait plus d'une occupation de deux ans pour assurer l'existence de la nouvelle principauté. Ce but ne saurait être atteint que par la destruction complète de la population Grecque et de la population Musulmane. Car sans cela, il n'est que trop facile de prévoir ce qui arrivera le jour où les Russes quitteront le pays et en remettront la garde entre les mains de cette minorité Bulgare qui a déjà donné les preuves concluantes de sa valeur et de son courage. Il ne passera pas vingt-quatre heures que ces mêmes Bulgares, pour lesquels on invoque aujourd'hui les droits de l'humanité, devront repasser les Balkans, s'ils ne préfèrent être exterminés jusqu'au dernier par les populations Grecques et Musulmanes abreuvées de rage et de vengeance. Ce ne sont pas là de vaines menaces; ce sont des vérités qui ont déjà reçu un commencement d'exécution. Il est certain qu'en présence de pareils événements la Russie invoquera de nouveau les droits de l'humanité et insistera sur la nécessité d'une pacification, pour prolonger indéfiniment son occupation militaire. On verrait alors, par une fatalité inévitable, se reproduire en Bulgarie ce qui s'est déjà passé à Tashkoend. Comment s'y prendront les diplomates de la Russie et les philanthropes enrôlés sous la bannière de Mr. Gladstone, et les écrivailleurs politiques des comités Panslavistes, pour réfuter ces vérités évidentes par elles-mêmes? Les populations Grecques et Musulmanes, dont ils nient l'existence, leur démontrent qu'elles existent par des preuves pratiques et palpables, analogues à celles que donnait Diogène aux sophistes qui niaient le mouvement. Aujourd'hui que nous assistons à l'insurrection Musulmane, que nous sommes à la veille d'une insurrection Grecque, il ne leur est plus possible de nier plus longtemps que la délimitation de la Bulgarie, telle qu'elle a été fixée par le Traité de San Stéfano, même soit à la conquête Russe, soit à l'ajournement à deux ans de la guerre Européenne, donnant pendant ce temps à la Russie l'occasion de fortifier sa situation politique et militaire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

Major de Winton to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Therapia, May 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice the very strong expression of feeling towards England and the English rule which was exhibited, without a single exception, at all the places where we stopped during our late journey in Asia Minor to Erakly and back.

This feeling, which I have before met among refugees and poorer classes, was not in

these instances confined to them, but we found that it existed also among the better classes, and even among Government officials

They one and all seemed to despair of the future of their country, unless its form of Government was changed, and I gathered that even if a peaceful solution of the present state of affairs was arrived at, an outbreak of the people against their rulers was only a question of time.

Among the officials who expressed opinions adverse to their rulers and of confidence in England, the most worthy of record was that of the Mutessurif of Boly, who was on a visit of inspection to Erakly. In a conversation with us, in the presence of others, he stated as follows:—

"If there were ten Turks in this room, and war was declared between the Padishah and England, six out of the ten would side with England. I do not (he added) state this officially, but I know it to be true, and that the same feeling extends over a large portion of Asia Minor." His views were confirmed by others present.

In all the conversation he held I was much aided by the knowledge of the Turkish language possessed by Lieutenant Cherniside, which enabled us often to dispense with an interpreter, and even when an interpreter was admitted, Lieutenant Cherniside was able to verify all that passed. It does not become me to express an opinion on the subject which I have thus brought under your Excellency's notice, but I venture to point out that if some aid such as is afforded in many of our possessions in the East Indies could be offered to the Turkish Government in the management of her provinces, in might tend towards establishing a better feeling between the Government and the people, and towards the improvement and development of the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. DE WINTON, *Major, R.A.,*
Military Attaché.

No. 123.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 674.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report upon the present condition of the provinces in Turkey in Europe occupied by the Russians, and of the treatment of their Greek and Mussulman inhabitants by the invaders and by the Bulgarians. This Report has been drawn up by a person whom I have employed to obtain information with reference to the military movements in Roumélia and Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Report.

LE mouvement de l'armée Russe rend très difficile l'exacte connaissance du nombre des troupes qui occupent les différentes places; avec grande peine j'ai pu faire la reconnaissance des troupes à peu près exacte. En Bulgarie les forces Russes, où la majeure partie se trouve au sud des Balkans, se composent de 150,000 à 120,000 hommes d'infanterie, de 28,000 à 30,000 de cavalerie, et de 1,250 à 1,400 canons, parmi lesquelles se trouvent des canons pris par les Turcs; 72 canons de champ et 8 de siége se trouvent à Philippopoli. Sistov est la première station des munitions; Gabrova la seconde, où sont déposés les outils de l'ouvrage militaire; Kyzanlik la troisième, et Chataldja la quatrième. Dans les différents pays les mosquées et les bains sont employées par les Russes pour dépôts des munitions, et ils sont pleines: j'ai vu d'autres qui servaient d'écuries pour la cavalerie. Les troupes qui se trouvent dans les villes occupent encore les maisons. L'armée Russe est dispersée à cause des maladies qui sévissent les troupes. Les officiers ainsi que les soldats ont commencé à murmurer, se trouvant encore en campagne.

L'état sanitaire des troupes Russes est très mauvaise; les maladies qui sévissent dans l'armée sont le typhus exanthématique, maladie très contagieuse, la fièvre typhoïde et la vérole; j'ai visité quelques hôpitaux, et par les rapports des médecins j'ai pu évaluer les cas de mort 7 à 8 par 1,000, les points où ces maladies font des ravages, et se trouvent

plus en extense sont Philippopoli, Andrinople, Tirnovo, Sistov, et Nicopoli; il est bien entendu que les mêmes maladies se sont propagés aux habitants; dans les hôpitaux militaires se trouvent en traitement 4,800 malades à peu près, excepté les blessés; la cavalerie Russe a beaucoup souffert; il paraît difficile que les pertes des chevaux soient réparées. Les Bulgares sont en train de former un Gouvernement civil sous les Russes; pour le moment c'est une anarchie; seulement la police se fonctionne avec énergie; les Chefs sont Russes, qui ont organisé une gendarmerie par des Bulgares qui ressemblent aux zaptiés Turcs; ils portent l'uniforme; tous les tribunaux sont composés par des Bulgares incapables de diriger les affaires; ils font des injustices sans nombre et surtout aux étrangers. L'esprit des Bulgares est très favorable aux Russes; ils disent que Russe ou Bulgare c'est la même chose; des écoles Russes sont organisées et plusieurs professeurs sont arrivés de la Russie; la langue Russe devient obligatoire aux écoles Bulgares. D'après l'avis des notables Bulgares, Philippopoli, qui est provisoirement capital, sera le centre de la Bulgarie; journellement arrivent des étrangers Bulgares. Les impôts sont vingt fois plus qu'auparavant, des fortes amendes imposées aux habitants.

Le recrutement en Bulgarie est déjà commencé depuis le commencement du mois de Mai, premièrement seront enrôlés 12,000 hommes à l'âge de 20 ans pour accomplir le défectif de la légion Bulgare, laquelle se trouve à Kotel (Kazan) composée de 8,000 hommes, on dit qu'elle a reçu l'ordre de se diriger aux lieux de l'insurrection à Rhodope, elle porte les mêmes armes que la Russes. Les Bulgares montrent grand zèle pour la vie militaire, et les Russes organisent le recrutement avec précipitation. Il y aura un second enrôlement dans peu de temps pour 50,000 hommes. Dans différents pays les Bulgares ont demandé par les Gouverneurs Russes de leur accorder des armes pour défendre leur pays en cas d'invasion de l'ennemi; cette proposition a été prise en considération. Comme ils enrôlent aussi les Grecs, ces derniers quittent en masse leurs foyers pour échapper la milice sous les Russes, de manière que la Thrace sera dépopulée des Grecs; c'est un procédé qui est à l'intérêt des Bulgares.

Le commerce se trouve en grande stagnation; seulement les fournisseurs des vivres pour l'armée faisaient des affaires, mais depuis quelque temps ils se trouvent inactifs. La récolte est excellente; elle promet d'être très abondante; peu de terrain ne se trouve pas sous culture; les villageois avaient le temps nécessaire pour semer pendant l'hiver; ils me disaient qu'elle est ainsi abondante, qu'elle remplira aussi la quantité de terrain qui n'est pas cultivé; ils continuent à semer pour la récolte d'été, mais trop lentement à cause de la manque des bestiaux. La quantité de la récolte peut suffire aux besoins du pays et de l'armée abondamment, s'il n'y aura pas exportation des céréales, beaucoup des munitions Turques sont déposées encore, et les Russes s'en servent.

La population Turque qui est restée sous la domination Russe se trouve à une déplorable situation, tout ce que je vous exposerai sera moins de la vérité. D'abord les Turcs ne sont pas sûrs de leur vie; journellement arrivent des assassinats; j'ai ouï dire un gendarme Bulgare de raconter qu'il était très content d'avoir tué trois villageois Musulmans; près de Roustchouk une famille entière composée de quatre personnes Musulmanes fut la proie de trois Bulgares et deux Cosaques; cela est arrivé tout récemment. Les villageois Musulmans s'abstiennent de retourner à leurs foyers; les villageois Grecs, pour éviter les atrocités Bulgares, disent qu'ils sont Bulgares. Les maisons Musulmanes ont été brûlées par les Bulgares; très rarement on trouve un village Musulman peu endommagé; ceux qui étaient mêlés les Bulgares ont brûlé leurs maisons, d'une part pour occuper ceux des Musulmans, les trouvant plus spacieux, d'autre part pour éloigner les Turcs; les Bulgares ne permettent pas aux Musulmans de prendre l'eau à boire, même en disant que les puits les appartiennent. Très peu des réfugiés Musulmans ont commencé à retourner, et ceux qui retournent sont de la population de la basse classe; mais hélas que trouve-t-on en retournant? la ruine complète, et comme occupation ils exercent le mendiant. Encore un obstacle pour leur retour; le fanaticisme Turc est universellement connu, mais la police, que fait-elle aux femmes Musulmanes? elle les fouillent en descendant du train, pour voir si elles portent des armes; elle pouvait le faire par des femmes.

Les dégâts qui ont été occasionnés par les Russes et par les Bulgares, et lesquels continuent encore, sont innombrables; je ne citerai pas tous ceux que j'ai ouï dire, mais ceux que j'ai pu voir. Les villages Musulmans ont été brûlés et pillés; ceux qui restent intactes, les Bulgares les ont usurpés; les maisons qui se trouvent dans les villes ont été pillées et ruinées, de manière que les planches du parquétage, les fenêtres, et les portes ont été arrachées et transportées par les Bulgares et par les Russes, qui les ont rendues presqu'inhabitables; les monuments des cimetières Musulmanes ont été transportés et employés pour paver les cours des maisons Bulgares; le vandalisme qu'exerce cette nation est à l'excès. A l'approche des Russes à Philippopolis, quelques habitants Musulmans ont déposé et confié leurs effets chez un négociant Italien nommé Taxella; le Gouvernement,

malgré l'instance du susdit négociant, les a sequestrés et les a vendus à l'encan; en vain les propriétaires des effets les réclamaient en portant les démonstrations nécessaires; ils étaient brusquement repoussés par le Gouvernement. Le montant des effets vendus s'élève à 4,000 livres. Le Gouvernement donne à louer aux Bulgares les propriétés Turques sous la condition de retirer la moitié de la récolte qu'ils pourront produire. Les Grecs de la Thrace préparent une pétition pour l'adresser au Gouvernement Hellénique dans ce sens: on fait une statistique minutieuse des habitants Grecs, le mode du Gouvernement et le personnage qui fonctionne très-mal et arbitrairement, et se termine à dire qu'ils étaient mieux gouvernés et qu'ils préfèrent la domination Turque au lieu d'être sous les Bulgares; je me suis informé que le Gouvernement Hellénique a exigé cette pétition par les habitants Grecs.

Des bergers et des passagers m'ont donné les renseignements suivants sur la révolution qui a éclaté dans les montagnes de Rhodope. Les atrocités Bulgares ont excité et porté au désespoir les Musulmans de ces localités, afin de prendre les armes: le nombre des insurgés s'élève de 28,000 à 30,000 hommes bien armés; des détachements Russes se rendent précipitamment sur les lieux; des combats sanglants ont eu lieu dernièrement, et favorables aux insurgés. L'insurrection s'étend de Sultan Ghéri à l'occident de Didhim Otiki et de la Rivière Euros jusqu'à la vallée de Krisma au sud de l'Aigais; les Musulmans de Ghiumurdjina se sont fortifiés dans les montagnes, qui sont très-difficiles, que les Russes ne puissent les avoir; l'insurrection fait des progrès. J'ai vu quelques positions qui sont impregnables. Je me suis assuré par des personnes très exactement informées, provenant de ces localités, qu'il sera très-difficile que cette révolte soit réprimée; journellement arrivent des blessés Russes aux différents hôpitaux.

No. 124.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 675.)

Therapia, May 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a report published in the "Levant Herald" with respect to the real cause of the rising of the Mahommedan population in the districts of Mount Rhodope.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Extract from the "Levant Herald."

THE REAL CAUSE OF THE RISING OF THE POMAKS.—Various reports have been published as to the cause of the rising of the Mussulmans at Rhodope. In a letter from Philippopoli, of a recent date, describing the wretched state of things prevailing throughout the whole of Thrace, the following details are given on this head, which undoubtedly throw the best light on the whole affair.

The depredations, acts of violence, and outrages, says the writer of the letter in question, committed through the whole length of the valley of the Maritza, since its occupation by the Russians, against the non-Slav portion of the inhabitants, and particularly against those of the Mussulmans who had surrendered to the Russians and remained in their homes, have so exasperated the Turks of Rhodope as to lead them to take up arms in defence of their property, their honour, and their lives. The Bulgarians, after mercilessly plundering and destroying all Mussulman property in the valley, directed their attention to the villages about Rhodope. Some of these villages, believing in the Russian assurances that they would have full protection of life and property, had surrendered at the first call of the Russians, giving up, at the same time, their arms. No sooner, however, were the Russians gone than bands of Bulgarians began to make raids upon them, plundering, setting fire to, or otherwise laying waste the villages, dishonouring the women, and killing those of the inhabitants who dared make any show of resistance. The poor villagers applied for redress and protection to their conquerors, but notwithstanding the promises given, they only met from them with abuse, often blows, and sometimes imprisonment. Seeing this, the inhabitants of the villages who had not yet surrendered refused either to do so or give up their arms, and when threatened with coercion, they forthwith took them up and prepared to defend themselves and their

suffering neighbours. Some Russian troops were then dispatched to the mountains for the purpose of bringing the insurgents to subjection. On being informed of this movement, the latter at once took possession of the paths and defiles leading to the mountains, and thus ensued the conflicts between them and the Russian detachments. This was the first and real cause of the rising of the Mussulmans. They now seem intent upon beating off the assailants, and fully determined to fight to the last man rather than become subjected to the Bulgarians. They mean to keep up the strife, being persuaded—and any one can see that—that it will be impossible for them ever again to live in peace with the Bulgarians. From the foregoing facts it becomes evident that the statements of the Russian press as to the rising being due to foreign, and particularly to English, intrigues, are devoid of all foundation, and in no way justified. The rebellion, or whatever it is to be called, might, perhaps, never have taken place, or easily put down, but for the conduct of the Russian authorities themselves. Taking the cue from their conduct from the very first moment of their invasion of the country, one is led to infer that the chief and sole object of those in authority at head-quarters is the total extermination both of the Turkish and Greek elements—the only two there besides the Slav, the Greek especially mustering in much stronger numbers than the Slav—and the means they employ to that end fully justify the inference. The Bulgarians are indulged in all sorts of outrages against both Turks and Greeks. The depredations committed by the former, far from being punished, are extolled; the complaints of the latter meet only with abuse. More than nine-tenths of the Turkish villages and farms have been first despoiled and then burned; the mosques have been transformed into warehouses or stables, and in the town of Philippopoli itself the burial-grounds, which the Turks hold in most sacred awe, have been turned into public grounds of recreation. Turkish property, such as warehouses, &c., within the towns, has been let by the Russian authorities at their own profit, while the owners are left houseless, hungry, and in rags. All the cattle have been carried off from the farms, and the barns emptied, and their contents sold by the authorities at ridiculously low prices. Towards the Greeks they seem to have lately somewhat moderated their conduct. They seldom now burn Greek villages or towns, but still they are subjected to other kinds of oppression. Heavy taxes and fines are imposed upon them, and on any slight pretext they are condemned to long imprisonment, and often to beatings. The Civil Governor, M. Chapeloff, does his work—according, undoubtedly, to the instructions he has received—with a steady determination. The Bulgarians are to be indulged in everything, Turks and Greeks must be persecuted to the utmost. No complaints made by them are to be listened to; if accused, no inquiries must be made. Punishment follows the accusation, be it just or not. Some officers to whom complaints were privately made, are said to have replied that it was not the faults of those who executed, but of those who gave the orders, which prompted this conduct on the part of the authorities. Depredations even now continue, as much as ever, to be committed by the Bulgarians, both in town and country. There being no movable property left for them to lay hands upon—as they have already possessed themselves of everything belonging to Turks, and, as regards the villages, the Greeks too—they have now taken to removing the tiles from the roofs of Turkish houses and mosques. A party of Cossacks and Bulgarians mounted lately to the balcony round the minaret of the Iriè Hodja mosque at Philippopoli and took away the iron railing round it. At a village called Douryouklou some Bulgarians put to death by torture five young women, after outraging them. The number of Turkish villages devastated is too large for the names of all of them to be given. The following are among those which suffered most, and which are now in ruins: Ouzoun Issnel, Reïskeui, Sevisli, Iné Mektchi, Ykioktsely, Gerenkeui, Siguen, Kara-Bey, Bekirly Tchamsi, Kotcha Béily, Sakarly, Téké, Kotcha Othari, Yiountaklar, Kouroui-tchoulou, Salibly, Kadirsik. All these villages are on that side of the Maritza, in a north-easterly direction from Philippopoli. The following lie to the north-west of that town, and are also in ruins: Tirlii, Diggi Mahalé, Tchoulouk, Ozoun-kara, Dakarkeui, Daoudlar, Nasfukeui, Douryetly, Donmakly, Kara-Mustaphalar, Yieh Yialar, Boyouk, Ezendeley, Koutchouk-Ezendely. Of the following, on this side of the Maritza, no trace is to be found, having been completely burned down: Turkika Bodena, Karatza Danuhasi, Beïcoï, Kiesiply, Tourkueni, Onoura-bashni, Giobsely Trifili, Yenibektzi. Farms: Derenkeui-kiosseli, Beïkeui, Canos, Derekeui, Imler, and a great number of others.

No. 125.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 670. Confidential)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report addressed to me by Major de Winton, and of one addressed to Admiral Hornby by Lieutenant Chermside, respecting the very strong expression of feeling towards England amongst the Mussulman population which these officers observed during a recent journey in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Lieutenant Chermside to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *Therapia, May 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that whilst travelling recently on duty in Asia Minor, in the part of the country lying between the Bosphorus, on the west, and Heraklea and Bolu, on the east, I have been much struck with the feeling of the population towards the English nation.

Except in the larger towns, the population is almost exclusively Mussulman, and my experience has been principally among Turks proper.

The friendly feeling of the peasantry in most parts of the Empire towards the English is, of course, a well-known matter; but, after a considerable time spent in European Turkey, I have been so struck with the intensity and unanimity of that in the country I have just visited, as well as with certain points about it new to me, that I am forwarding you this letter on a subject that scarcely lies within the province of my work.

This feeling of the population appears to me not to be (as I have often considered it) merely a friendship fostered by the traditions of our former alliance, and a hope of assistance in maintaining the present state of things, but a definite expression of public opinion, often almost revolutionary, that has permeated to the most out-of-the-way hamlets, and that is in many points opposed alike to the traditions and religion of the Turks.

There is a strong feeling of resentment against the Constantinople Government and the Pashas in general.

It really seems to have come home to the nation that, with a brave and devoted soldiery and a magnificent country, they are yet in a hopeless state of ignorance, poverty, and disorganization; in fact, they seem to have somewhat realized their own condition, and to have an idea of what reforms and improvements are wanted, while despairing of ever receiving them at the hands of their own countrymen.

I used the words above, "revolutionary," and "opposed to traditions and religion." By this I mean that, in speaking of the possible war, they say, "If the English want us to come, we will come;" and on my remarking, "But if your Padishah is at peace with Russia?" the answer has been—not once, but almost always—to this effect: "What has our Padishah done for us? If you come to help us, we will come;" and even, occasionally: "We know you have nothing to gain, but fight only for right and justice (hakkanyet ve insafiehun). If you come, we shall fight as brothers."

Again, there is the constant abuse of their commanders, of the robberies from the soldiery by the officials, and the expression of the wish to have Englishmen to lead them.

It is this point that is, of course, opposed to their traditions; and to look to "infidels," not only for their leaders but for their Government, is, of course, against both tradition and religion.

I had the constant query to answer, "What are you doing?" "Are you going to make roads and railways, are the English coming to take our country?" And their idea seemed to be not only help in war, but some sort of help and assistance throughout the country. Another curious feature of the sort of independence of feeling, and evidence of a kind of public opinion, is that I have heard the Government roundly abused more than once for not accepting the reforms, &c., that England asked them

to make at the time of the Conference, and which they think would have secured our support.

I have been asked many questions as to the troops coming from India, and also about our rule over Mohammedan races. Of course among themselves there are differences of opinion, and I have heard several discussions showing a truer appreciation of things than, from their difficulty in procuring trustworthy information and habits of thought, I should have expected.

Another—to me new and striking—point, was to find this feeling almost universal, that is, shared by the governing classes, officials, mollahs, zaptiehs, and peasants alike.

A feeling of friendship for the English, and a hope of material assistance from them, I have generally met with, among municipal and other officials, but have not been accustomed to hear them abuse their own Government and system, and to wish us to, at any rate, exercise a sort of protectorate over the country.

At Aashlu (Mudir), at Indjelu (Mudir), at Akshishehr (Mudir), at Heraklea (Mutessarif, and a naval officer, of the rank of Post-Captain, who speaks English well), at Duzteha (Kaimakam), the tendency of the conversation of the officials has all been in this direction—assistance in administration, or reforming the system, as well as alliance in war.

Hassan Bey, the director of the coal mines, an officer who has been in England, not only despairs of unaided reform, but openly blames the entire system, especially as regards its supreme rulers and their mode of education; he looks on his country as lost, as a nation, without English aid.

The Governor of Bolu said to Major de Winton, R.A., and myself during our only interview, "I have spoken of our very great friendship for the English. I tell you this privately: if the Turkish Government were against England at the present time, and the country to be polled, out of every ten men, six would be for the English against four for our own Government."

The news (bazaar gossip as far as we knew) of the hoisting of the British flag by the inhabitants of Batoum was looked upon as likely to cause decisive action on the part of England. "She must help them now and take Batoum; if so, will she come here and help us to?" and so on. The state of the country is very pitiable; the absence of young men and the numbers of fields no longer cultivated are very marked evidences of this.

Many tracts once fertile are now overrun by scrub forest; forests of large timber cover ground that centuries ago was cultivated by a thriving population.

The magnificent plains of Dueztcha, Adabazar, and Ismidt are scantily populated and but little cultivated; ridge and furrow are still discernible in places in the waste, weed-grown grass fields, which carry but little stock. Marks show too of rice cultivation; and lines of tall trees, once hedgerows, give, at a distance, the appearance of forest to what within a few years must have been vast, rich tracts of cultivated alluvial soil.

The immigration of the Circassian and Abkhasian element after the Crimean war appears to be one of the main causes of this; they cultivate but little, and their predatory habits prevent their neighbours from either producing valuable crops or even keeping stock.

The Turkish ferry-men at the wide swamp between Hondek and Adabasar spoke much of this. "We can keep nothing. If a man has money, a watch, anything of value, they steal it; they have taken all the beasts from our village" (Su Kenari). "My last yoke of oxen," said the headman, "were taken last night."

The complaints of these villagers, as referring to their general condition, their prostration, owing to the war, misgovernment, &c., are certainly very pathetic, especially as being the utterances of such a brave and patient race: "Can our Padishah know what a state we are in? We are worn out, we are finished. Who will help us? How can we work? With what heart? All is taken from us!".

During the last fortnight, i.e., from Ismidt to Heraklea and back, I was travelling in company with Major de Winton, R.A., who was preparing certain reports for his Excellency Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, and who intends forwarding one on this subject. I have read this letter to Major De Winton, and have his permission to state that he does not consider my impressions erroneous or my estimate of the general feeling of the country we travelled in to be exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 126.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 679.)
Therapia, May 27, 1878.

My Lord,

A COMMISSION, of which Said Pasha, the Sultan's late Chief Secretary, is President, has been appointed to enquire into the circumstances connected with the plot, under the direction of Ali Suavi Effendi, to remove the ex-Sultan Murad from the Palace of Tcheroghan, and to restore him to the throne. This Commission sits daily at the Palace of Yildiz, and examines witnesses. It has already ordered the arrest of several persons who are suspected of having been implicated in the affair. I am assured, by those who are in a position to be well informed, that no evidence has yet been found which tends to prove that the conspiracy had any extensive ramifications, or that men of position or influence in the country, or in the army, were connected with it. It is stated that Russian agents were not ignorant of it, and that there are proofs that considerable sums of money were supplied by them to the conspirators. It is not surprising that such suspicions should exist, but I can scarcely believe that there is much foundation for them.

I have been informed by a person (not a Turk) who was on intimate relations with Ali Suavi Effendi, and who was with him, I believe, the night before the execution of his desperate scheme, that the object the conspirators had in view was to provoke hostilities with Russia, in the belief that, if the Russians attacked Constantinople, the European Powers would be compelled to interfere on behalf of Turkey, who, after the Russians were defeated, as they inevitably would be, would throw off the yoke put upon her by Russia, and would regain her independence. They had convinced themselves that the present Sultan could not be induced to renew the war. They believed that the Mussulman populations were everywhere ready to take up arms, and they have been organizing, through the principal fugitives now in Constantinople, insurrections in various parts of Roumelia. They have been in communication with the Chiefs who are directing the movement in Mount Rhodope and elsewhere, and Mr. St. Clair, whose name is probably not unknown to your Lordship, and who entertains opinions similar to those of Ali Suavi, and several Poles who have been connected with revolutionary movements in Poland, have actually joined the insurgents. I am told that they expect money and arms from some secret source in Europe. It would appear that Ali Suavi and his accomplices had engaged the services of some Pomak and Circassian Chiefs, who had come as refugees to Constantinople, but that the greater part of the persons whom he induced to accompany him to the Palace were ignorant of his real object, and had been led to believe that they were to present a petition to the Sultan, and were to receive from his Majesty money and arms to enable them to join the insurgents in Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 127.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 680. Very Confidential.)
Therapia, May 27, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN I was with the Prime Minister yesterday morning, he told me that the Sultan had requested him earnestly to consent to the entry of Mahmoud Damat Pasha into Ministry as Minister of War. His Highness said that the recent conspiracy to proclaim the deposed Sultan Murad, and the occurrences at the Palace of Tchiraghan, had produced a very painful impression upon His Majesty, who was naturally timid and suspicious, and that he desired to have at the head of the army a person upon whose entire devotion to his person he could rely. Mahmoud Pasha was his near relative, and had been mainly instrumental in placing him on the throne. His Majesty had entire confidence in his brother-in-law's loyalty, and could feel that as long as he was at the head of the army there would be nothing to fear from that quarter.

His Highness went on to say that although he was fully alive to the objections that could be urged against the return of Mahmoud Damat Pasha to the Ministry, and to the unfavourable impression that it would make upon public opinion, he thought that, all things considered, it was better to yield to His Majesty's wishes. He had, therefore, consented to Mahmoud Damat's nomination as Seraskier; but it was on the distinct understanding that no change whatever was to take place in the policy of the Government,

and he begged me not to be under any apprehension that Mahmoud Damat would exercise an influence in the Cabinet adverse to English interests.

Mahmoud Damat Pasha has already sent me a message to say that I might count entirely upon his desire to support the policy that I advised, and to express his intention to call upon me without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 128.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 681. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 27, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship has probably seen the communication addressed by the Russian Government to that of Austria-Hungary in reply to the proposals made to Count Ignatieff at Vienna, with a view to the modification of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano. Your Lordship may not, however, have been made acquainted with it. I have not been able to obtain a copy of the document itself, but I have made some hasty notes of its contents. It is divided into the eleven following heads :—

1. The Russian Government states that its object in making the war was to "soustraire les populations Chrétiennes de la domination directe des Turcs." As Austria-Hungary objects to the autonomous Bulgarian Principality created by the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, because it forms the germ of a great compact Slav State, Russia consents to its division into two parts, one Western and the other Eastern, each part to form a separate autonomous province, with all the institutions and guarantees provided by the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano for the proposed Bulgarian Principality.

2. Defines the frontiers of each of the autonomous provinces.

3. States that the limits of the two provinces together are to be those assigned by the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano to Bulgaria (that is, they are to extend to the Ægean and the Black Sea), and that they may be defined by an International Commission.

4. Austria-Hungary may conclude with the Western Bulgarian Province, and with Servia, such commercial arrangements as she may think necessary to guarantee her commercial communication by the Mitrovitza-Salonica railway.

5. Instead of the occupation of Bulgaria by Russian troops for two years, no definite term will be fixed. It will depend upon the completion of the internal arrangements contemplated for the provinces, such as the settlement of the Administration, the formation of the national militia, &c. When the occupation ceases, an International Commission may exercise the superintendence accorded by the VIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano to Russia.

6. The rights and immunities of the two Bulgarian provinces may be placed under the same collective guarantee of the European Powers as were Servia, Moldavia, and Wallachia by the XXIInd and XXIIIrd Articles of the Treaty of 1856; and a similar provision may be made with regard to them as is contained in the XXVIIth and XXIXth Articles of the same Treaty, namely, that if the internal tranquillity of those provinces is disturbed, the Porte must come to an understanding with the Powers as to the measures to be taken to restore it.

7. Austria-Hungary may, if she thinks fit, annex Bosnia and Herzegovina.

8. The territory which, according to the Prelimary Treaty of San Stefano, is to separate Montenegro from Servia, may be divided between those two Principalities.

9. The frontiers of Montenegro are to be those assigned to her by the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, especially including that part of the Adriatic coast which she has conquered by force of arms. Austria-Hungary is at liberty to make Customs Conventions with Montenegro.

10. She may make similar Conventions with Servia.

11. If an agreement is come to between Austria-Hungary and Russia on these conditions, Austria will engage by a "written act" to "se rendre solidaire avec la Russie sur le terrain diplomatique quant aux autres clauses du Traité Préliminaire de San Stefano."

These conditions, offered to Austria-Hungary in reply to the proposal made by

her through Count Ignatiew to the Russian Government, have been well termed "non pas une réponse, mais une provocation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 129.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 682.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 27, 1878.*

TWO Mussulman gentlemen, Mehemet and Ismail Effendis, from Serres, called this morning to represent to me, in the name of the Mahomedan inhabitants of that place and of the surrounding districts, their determination not to submit to Bulgarian rule, and to ask my advice as to the course they should pursue. They stated that the Mussulman population of the Province of Serres far exceeded in number the Bulgarian; that they had learnt that by the Treaty of San Stefano they were to be included in the new Bulgarian Principality, and that they would resist to the utmost any attempt to place them under a Bulgarian Government.

They said that the Greeks, who also out-numbered the Bulgarians, and with whom the Mussulmans lived on the most friendly terms, were equally resolved not to accept Bulgarian rule. The Mahommedans of Serres had heard of the shocking cruelties committed by the Russians and Bulgarians upon the Mussulmans of Roumelia. They feared a similar fate, and were ready to take to arms to protect themselves. There were many thousands only waiting for a word from England to join their countrymen who had risen against Russian and Bulgarian oppression. Learning that England was enrolling soldiers, they had come to offer me any number of men the British Government might require, and were ready to act upon any advice that I might give them.

I answered them that Her Majesty's Government would do their utmost to obtain protection for the Mussulman population of Turkey, as they made no distinction of creed or race, but desired that all the subjects of the Sultan should be justly governed; that I had good hopes that they would not be placed under Bulgarian rule, that there was no truth in the report that the British Government were enrolling soldiers, and that I advised them to await quietly the result of the efforts of Her Majesty's Government to obtain a peaceful and satisfactory settlement of their troubles.

They thanked me very warmly for what I had told them, and said that they would follow my advice. But they added that they could not return to Serres until they could take back an assurance to their fellow-countrymen that they would receive protection from England, and not be placed under the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 130.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 683. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 28, 1878.*

I INCLOSE an interesting Report from Major de Winton upon the coal mines of Heraclea (Ereklí), which he has recently visited with Lieutenant Chermside. It appears to me of great political and commercial importance that these mines should be in the hands of an English Company. I had already prepared the way for a concession to such a Company, when I received a private letter on the subject from the Duke of Sutherland. I have, in my reply to his Grace, given every encouragement to the idea of forming an English Company which has occurred to him. But when I wrote to the Duke, I had not received Major de Winton's Report, which it appears to me desirable that he should see, should your Lordship have no objection. If there be a serious intention on the part of any English capitalists to work these valuable mines, no time should be lost in obtaining the necessary concession, which, I have every reason to believe, would be given by the Sultan to an English Company on very favourable terms. The Russians are well acquainted with their importance, and proposed to the Porte to include them amongst the guarantees that were to be assigned for the payment of the indemnity exacted from Turkey by the Treaty of San Stefano.

The Prime Minister has suggested that two competent English engineers, having practical experience and knowledge of coal mines, should be sent out at once to examine and report upon the Heraclea mines, with a view to the formation of a Company. It appears to me that this will be the best course to pursue. But there should be as little delay as possible in obtaining a concession from the Porte, which would furnish it with grounds for refusing any demand that Russia might put forward hereafter to the mines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Major de Winton to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, May 20, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 12th instant, through the kindness of Hassan Bey, the Government official in charge, Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., and myself visited part of the coal-bearing district of Erakly, and I have the honour to furnish your Excellency with the following information which was obtained during our inspection, and from details given by Hassan Bey concerning these important mines:—

Situated on the coast eight miles to the eastward of Erakly are the mines of Aladajazi; eight miles beyond Aladajazi at the head of a small bay are the mines of Kosli; four miles further on you come to Zunjuldach, which is also slightly protected by a small bay; and ten miles beyond Zunjuldach is Kilimnia. Coal has also been discovered at Amasrua, thirty miles further down the coast, and thus it will be seen that the coal measures extend along the coast for nearly fifty miles. No information could be obtained, however, concerning their extent from the coast inland. The country is very hilly and broken, and is covered with dense forest. No survey has ever been attempted, and it seems probable that the mines at present worked are only a very small proportion of what really exists.

The Aladajazi mine is situated on the shore. The workings consist of eleven shafts, and the coal is brought down to stands by horses, from whence in fine weather it is shipped into caïques and mahones.

The quality of the coal found here is considered good, but from its want of appliances and accommodation, it is not so important as either Kosli or Zunjuldach.

At Kosli the Government have laid down a line of rails which run up the valley, on either side of which the mines are worked. The length of this railway is about one-and-a-half miles, and its plant consists of fifty wagons, which are drawn by mules. It conveys coal to a badly-constructed shoot at the head of a small bay in which there is good anchorage, though it is quite exposed to all winds from a northerly direction. Numerous workings are apparent at this place, but not more than thirty are at present producing coal. There was also a small steam-pump in operation. The coal at this mine varies considerably. Three varieties are found, viz., hard, medium, and soft.

The mines at Zunjuldach are very much in the same state as those at Kosli. It was, I believe, worked by the English during the Crimean war, so that the qualities of the coal produced are probably well-known to the authorities at home. Here the Government have also a short line of railway worked by mules. Numerous shafts are visible, but only thirty, the same as at Kosli, are being worked. There are eight coke ovens established here, as one of the veins produces a good coal for the manufacture of coke, about 2,000 tons of which are made annually.

We were unable to visit Kilimnia, but Hassan Bey informed me that it was much in the same state as the mines of Aladajazi.

The only system pursued in working these mines is that of driving shafts into the sides of the hills wherever an outcrop is discovered, and following up a vein till it comes to a fault, when from want of capital and energy it is generally abandoned. The Government are the sole proprietors—Hassan Bey, a captain in the Turkish navy, with two lieutenants and 500 sailors, exercise a general superintendence, but the mines are all worked by small local contractors, chiefly Croats, who employ about 2,000 workmen. These latter are not settled miners, as they are drawn from the population of the neighbouring villages, and often do not work for more than a month at a time.

The contractors pay no rent to the Government for working a vein, and are furnished with pit-wood, but have to find two sureties towards any advances made for preliminary expenses.

The miners are paid 6 piastres caïmé (*5d.*) per diem, and the contractors are paid

by the Government 5 piastres caïme (*4d.*) per cantar—18 cantars go to the ton. When the Government have erected small shoots, under which caïques and mahones can be brought, a charge is made by them of 5 piastres caïme per ton for using it. Caïques take coal from these shoots to ships lying off the mine for 3 piastres caïme per ton. To convey a ton to Erakly 18 piastres caïme is charged.

During the past year 3,250,000 cantars of coal, about 180,000 tons, were raised, also 2,000 tons of coke. This was an exceptional yield on account of the war, and the average output of the five previous years was about half that quantity. Hassan Bey informed me that with extra waggons and mules he could, on an emergency, produce 300,000 cantars, about 16,000 tons, per month.

For some years past these mines have been worked in the manner above alluded to. No capital has been expended on their development, as the Government only raise coal sufficient for their own wants, and the contractors are local men without means, who work a vein till a fault occurs and then abandon it. Thus the great commercial advantages which these mines undoubtedly possess are utterly neglected. Labour is cheap, coal is abundant, all that is necessary is capital, and this introduced under proper management, and a royalty paid to the Ottoman Government on every ton raised, a large and increasing revenue would be the result, a revenue far in excess of what is now gained by the Government under their present system.

In a survey made by a French engineer of this district, which I have seen since my return, the breadth of these coal measures is stated at from 6½ to 13 miles, and the quality of the coal at the different mines is represented as being very good and useful for different commercial purposes.

As regards the position of these mines in a military point of view, they could be protected from the eastward by the occupation of the Boly Zafranboly and Kastamunia, but the absence of all roads, and even communication with the interior, and the broken, hilly, and wooded nature of the country in which they are situated, form a natural barrier and means of defence, by which a comparatively small force could hold in check any attempts to occupy the principal mines of Kosli and Zunjuldach, for no military operations on a large scale could be carried on without first opening up the country.

These two mines would furnish all the coal that would be necessary to supply a squadron retaining the supremacy of the Black Sea.

The want of good harbours is a serious consideration, but during the whole of the late war the Turkish Government carried on their coaling operations with the present appliances, and what the Turkish Government has done could be done by others in an emergency.

The occupation of Erakly, which possesses a better harbour, and the establishment of large depôts there, is another alternative, as the surrounding country, which was rapidly but carefully surveyed by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., affords good natural advantages for defence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. DE WINTON, *Major, R.A.,*
Military Attaché.

No. 131.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 684.)

Therapia, May 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram, in Turkish, addressed to me by the Mufti, Sheiks, and notables of the town of Prisrend, in Northern Albania, protesting against the partition of that province between the Servians, Montenegrins, and Bulgarians, and declaring that they are prepared to resist it by force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Telegram from Inhabitants of Prizrend to Mr. Layard.

(Traduction.) *Le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Mai*, 1878.

LES Soussignés disent que leur pays est le pays des Guégues, qu'il est habité par des Albanais, dont neuf-dixièmes sont Musulmans et un dixième Grecs Orthodoxes et Catholiques; qu'ils viennent d'apprendre que leur territoire va être partagé entre Monténégrins, Serbes, et Bulgares, qu'ayant en vue les iniquités commises par les Slavs dans les pays où ils ont pu pénétrer, ils ne se soumettraient jamais à la domination de ces derniers, et qu'ils désirent rester sous celle du Gouvernement Ottoman; qu'ils protestent contre l'annexion projetée de leur pays, et qu'ils sont décidés de repousser la force par la force au risque même d'être complètement annihilés. Les Soussignés, pour éviter l'effusion du sang, font appel à la miséricorde de l'Angleterre, et prient son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de vouloir bien en informer le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

No. 132.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 685.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 29, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram in Turkish which I have received from an inhabitant of Dédé-Agatch, complaining of the treatment received by the Mussulmans of the district from the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Telegram addressed to Mr. Layard by an Inhabitant of Dédéagatch.

(Traduction.) *Le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Mai*, 1878.

INDÉPENDAMMENT des iniquités commises par les Bulgares sur les paisibles habitants Musulmans de Dédé-Agatch et des environs, tout dernièrement un de leurs Chefs nommé Petco, ayant autour de lui un millier de bandits, est arrivé ici et s'est mis à massacrer une foule de paisibles Musulmans. Les autorités Russes, à qui on s'en est plaint, ont fait la sourde oreille. Or, si l'on ne met pas un terme à ces iniquités, il s'ensuivra une annihilation complète des Musulmans. C'est pourquoi je me suis permis de faire appel à la miséricorde de votre Excellence.

Un des Industriels de Dédé-Agatch,

(Signé) AALI.

No. 133.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 687.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 29, 1878.

SIR J. STOKES, in his despatch to your Lordship, No. 7, Political, of the 8th instant, threw out the suggestion that the Governments represented on the Danube Commission might conjointly reimburse the Porte a sum which has been advanced in the general European interests (for the works of the Sulina mouth of the Danube), taking over the engagements of the Danube Commission to reimburse the debt, according to the conditions of the Convention of 1869. I would venture to ask your Lordship whether this suggestion has been entertained by Her Majesty's Government? The sufferings of the unfortunate Mussulman fugitives from Russian and Bulgarian oppression and cruelties who have come to Constantinople are still most deplorable.

The Porte has not the means of feeding them, and a very large number of them appear to have already perished from actual starvation. The money which Sir J. Stokes suggests might be reimbursed to the Turkish Government would, if expended under proper superintendence, give relief to thousands of these poor people, save the lives of very many of them, and provide them with the means of re-establishing themselves in

their villages, if they are ever allowed to return to them, or in the places to which they may hereafter be sent by the Porte. The Governments represented on the Danube Commission might agree to Sir J. Stokes' suggestion on condition that the money paid to the Porte should be applied, under some European supervision, to these objects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 134.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 688.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 29, 1878.

THE Sultan informed me yesterday that as he was convinced that his brother, Murad Effendi, had no knowledge of Ali Suavi's conspiracy to replace him upon the Throne, he had sent him back to the Palace of Tchiraghan, where he would reside as before. His Majesty said that as the persons who had been arrested for complicity in the plot had been misled by Ali Suavi, of whose real objects they were ignorant, he had ordered their immediate release.

I told His Majesty that this act of clemency did him honour, and that I thought he was quite right in not attaching too much importance to an attempt which, however much to be deplored, proved in its results that no persons of any importance were concerned in it, and that it met with no sympathy or support from his people or his army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 135.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 689.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of the Imperial Hatt, or Decree, dismissing Sadyk Pasha from the office of Prime Minister, and appointing Mehemet Rushdi Pasha Grand Vizier, a title which is now revived.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Newspaper Extract.

AVÉNEMENT DE MEHMED RUCHDI PACHA AU GRAND VÉZIRAT.—Son Altesse Sadyk Pacha a été relevé hier de ses hautes fonctions. Le Chambellan du Sultan, Osman Bey, est allé hier vers 9 heures et demie à la Sublime Porte demander à Sadyk Pacha, d'ordre de Sa Majesté, les sceaux de l'Etat. Mehmed Ruchdi Pacha, à qui les sceaux viennent d'être confiés, reprend le titre de Grand Vézir.

Son Altesse a pris hier, vers 11 heures à la Turque, possession de son poste avec le cérémonial d'usage.

Le Premier Secrétaire de Sa Majesté le Sultan a porté et lu hier à la Sublime Porte le Hatt Impérial qui nomme Grand Vézir Mehmed Ruchdi Pacha.

Voici la traduction du Hatt:—

"Mon Illustre Vézir, Mehmed Ruchdi Pacha,

"Sadyk Pacha, venant d'être relevé de ses fonctions, vu votre expérience et vos connaissances parfaites, universellement reconnues, et vos mérites et capacités pour le sauvegarde en tous points des droits sacrés du Souverain fixés par la Constitution et pour défense de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique, je vous confie le poste du Grand Vézirat avec l'ancien titre, au lieu de celui de Premier Ministre.

"Je désire que, d'un commun accord avec tous mes autres Ministres, vous travaillez à réaliser le plus tôt possible les résultats utiles attendus de notre Constitution et à obtenir, en conformité de mes vœux Impériaux, la prospérité et le progrès de notre Empire.

"Que Dieu bénisse les efforts de tous ceux qui travaillent loyalement pour le bien de notre Empire."

Après la lecture du rescrit Impérial, le Grand Vézir a reçu les félicitations des Ministres et des hautes fonctionnaires. Son Altesse s'est rendue ensuite à Yildiz Kiosque pour présenter ses hommages à Sa Majesté le Sultan.

No. 136.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 690.)
My Lord,
Therapia, May 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of a telegram addressed to me by the inhabitants of Kioprili protesting against annexation to Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Petition from Kioprili against Annexation to Bulgaria.

(Traduction.)

LES habitants de Kioprili s'adressent à l'Ambassade d'Angleterre pour déclarer qu'ayant appris qu'en vertu du Traité de San Stéfano leur pays va être annexé à la Bulgarie, ils protestent contre une pareille mesure, attendu que la grande majorité de la population est Musulmane et Grecque et qu'ils ne sauraient se soumettre à un peuple qui leur est inférieur sous tous les points de vue. Ils ajoutent que, comptant sur l'assistance divine et sur celle des Puissances de l'Europe, ils résisteront de toute leur force à l'annexion projetée et ils prient que son Excellence l'Ambassadeur veuille bien en informer le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

(Suivent 18 signatures de Grecs et de Musulmans.)

Le 5/17 Mai, 1878.

No. 137.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 691.)
My Lord,
Therapia, May 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, respecting the state of affairs in the district of Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, May 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 1st May four Turkish steamers arrived here for the purpose of conveying to Asia the Turkish refugees now in the Alagunu Mountains, and any other Osmanli villagers who may wish to leave this part of Roumelia.

Yesterday a Russian transport from Odessa brought here 1,500 soldiers of the Imperial Guard on their way to San Stefano, viâ Samboli and Adrianople, and preparations are being made for the construction of a jetty or landing-place suitable for the disembarcation of cavalry, which are expected to be sent here before many days from Sebastopol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Sir,
Bourgas, May 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that three companies of Russian infantry (about 380 men) were marched from here yesterday in the direction of Missevria, where they were to be joined by two companies from Ardos and some Bulgarian auxiliaries. I hear that they have orders to surround some Mussulmans from the Missevria Balkan, who are said to have attacked Christian villages in that district.

On the 30th April eight Pomaks came to the village of Eski Pasli, in the Caza of Achialo, and shot down nine Bulgarians. I have no details concerning this affair except that the Pomaks, when firing, said, "this is the way to kill, and not your way," from which I presume that it was rather an act of reprisal than of wanton ferocity.

I learn, on what I believe to be excellent authority, that in case of war the Russian regular forces will retreat from the coast line, sending in their place some thousands of the "Bulgarian legion," which will probably be recruited from volunteers. As the sea-board from Varna to Constantinople is inhabited almost exclusively by Greeks, such an order, considering the hatred now existing between them and the Bulgarians (the latter speaking openly of the Greeks as "our Rayahs"), is tantamount to a permission to plunder with the option of murder in case of resistance.

I much regret to have to express my belief that armed Bulgarians, acting under any semblance of authority, will treat their Greek fellow-countrymen with still less ceremony than has been shown by Mussulman Bashi-Bazouks to Rayahs of either nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. BROPHY.

No. 138.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 696. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Therapia, May 30, 1878.

AMONG the causes of Sadyk Pasha's fall were, I have reason to believe, the fact that the conspiracy of Aali Suavi Effendi had not been discovered and its authors arrested before the attempt was made at the Palace of Tcheragan to obtain possession of the ex-Sultan Murad, and to restore him to the throne; and the publication of Reuter's telegram of the 10th instant, which appeared in the London newspapers of the 13th.

With regard to the publication in the papers of Sadyk Pasha's scheme for a new organic law, I had heard from Reuter's agent here that he had been able to obtain a copy or a sight of the draft which had been prepared on this subject by a person employed in a very confidential capacity at the Porte, and had telegraphed it to the European journals.

I spoke on the subject to Sadyk Pasha, who showed considerable alarm at the publicity about to be given to his scheme. He declared that no one, except one person, had been made acquainted with his views, and that he could not believe it to be possible that he had been betrayed. But it was exactly this person, a Frenchman, holding the confidential position of legal adviser to the Porte, who had given, or more probably sold, the scheme to Reuter's agent, as he, to my knowledge, has sold many equally confidential things.

In Reuter's telegram, to which I have alluded, Sadyk Pasha's reforms are stated to be intended "to restrain the Palace influence and to increase the independence of the Porte." It is easy to understand the use to which those whose object it may have been to bring about the fall of the Prime Minister could turn this imprudent declaration, to influence the mind of the Sultan, who is very jealous of his authority. I have reason to believe that no time was lost in calling his attention to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 139.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 697.)
Therapia, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter in Turkish, with a translation in French, addressed by certain Circassian Chiefs to the Earl of Beaconsfield.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Address from Circassian Chiefs to Mr. Layard.

(Traduction.)

IL est évident que l'avide Puissance Russe qui, après nous avoir éloigné de notre patrie, n'a pas cessé de nous accabler de persécutions, ne s'arrêtera que lorsqu'elle aura anéanti toutes les autres nationalités à part la sienne, comme si la terre n'avait été créé que pour elle. Il n'y aura de fin non plus à ses agressions contre l'Empire Ottoman, qui est notre réfuge. Dès ce moment l'Orient est entré dans une période de troubles et de guerres interminables. Ainsi qu'il est notoire, lorsque nous autres Circassiens, nous étions l'objet de tant de mépris et d'humiliations, il n'y a eu que la nation Anglaise qui a pris notre défense en faits et en paroles. C'est pourquoi nous avons acquis la conviction qu'il n'y a que l'Anglais qui aime la liberté et que l'ennemi la combat. Ainsi nous déclarons que nous sommes prêts à verser notre sang sous des commandants Anglais, et sous la discipline Anglaise, mais nous sommes las d'être toujours les instruments de guerres qui n'ont pas un but politique fixe et certain. Nous désirons une guerre qui aboutisse à une paix perpétuelle, et comme ce but ne saurait être atteint que lorsque la Russie aura rendu les territoires qu'elle a usurpés et qu'elle sera réduite à ce qu'elle était auparavant, nous nous engageons de devenir les soldats de l'Angleterre dans le but de reconstituer en Europe l'Empire Ottoman et la Pologne, et en Asie le Caucase et la Crimée. Nous soussignés, qui sommes des Beïs (Chefs) de la Circassie, signons cet engagement au nom de tous les Circassiens, et nous nous référons pour ce qui est à ordonner à votre Excellence.

(Suivent 12 sceaux et signatures.)

Le 8 Mai, 1878.

No. 140.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 698.)
Therapia, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney respecting affairs in the district of Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, May 18, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that all the troops which have been sent hither from Constantinople, as well as a battalion of Redifs from this vilayet, are under orders to proceed to the capital.

I regret to have to report that a band of brigands is said to exist in this neighbourhood. I find that Mr. Onofrio, the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, has been ordered to proceed to the Turco-Greek frontier, in order to induce the insurgents there to put a stop to the hostilities which have of late been carried on in that part of the country, and

I doubt not that in carrying out his mission, Mr. Onofrio has been instructed to visit several places situated within the jurisdiction of this Vice-Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 141.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 699.)
Therapia, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, in which he expresses his thanks for the approval which, by your Lordship's directions, I lately conveyed to him and Mr. Merlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Volo, May 23, 1878.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 7th and 18th instant, I beg leave most respectfully to take the liberty to express my thanks for the kind and flattering terms in which Her Majesty's Secretary of State and your Excellency have been pleased to notice my services in Thessaly in conjunction with Mr. Consul Merlin.

I also beg leave to express my deep gratitude to your Excellency for the full confidence and support which your Excellency has given me in conducting the important duties I am intrusted with in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 142.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 700.)
Therapia, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE received a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, from Mr. St. Clair, who signs himself by some Turkish name which I cannot make out, and styles himself "Commander-in-chief of the National Militia" of the Pomak nation. He writes, he further states, under the direction of the "Provisional Government of that nation," who pray the Queen to consider them as her provisional subjects.

I have thought it better to take no notice whatever of Mr. St. Clair's letter, as to enter into any kind of correspondence with him would only have the effect of exciting suspicions or hopes that would be equally unfounded, but might prove the source of considerable mischief.

I will forward to your Lordship translations of the documents inclosed in Mr. St. Clair's letter as soon as I can have them made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Mr. St. Clair to Mr. Layard.

Pashakly, May 19, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Provisional Governor of the Pomak nation to respectfully request your Excellency to pray Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India to consider the Pomak nation as her provisional subjects.

The nation has unanimously voted that the Queen of England shall be their Sovereign until the Treaty of St. Stefano is so revised as to suit Europe. They also beg Her

Majesty's Government to negotiate in their favour with the other Powers Signatory to the Treaty of Paris, so as to be under the protection of Europe and the special protection of the British Government.

As Commander-in-chief of the National Militia I can on my word of honour assure your Excellency of the good discipline of our troops. As further proof, I inclose the certificates of the good conduct of my men, written by the head men of the Christian villages under our Government, as well as a letter from the Greek Metropolitan of this district. I may add that numerous Bulgarian villages outside our outposts have petitioned me, begging for aid against the Cossacks, who violate their women and ill-treat them generally.

By order of the Provisional Government, I have, &c.

(Signed) (Turkish name illegible) ST. CLAIR.

P.S.—Inclosed your Excellency will find a Memorial in Turkish from the Caza of Ahy-Tchibli, which was handed me this moment, as well as other papers relating to the conduct of our troops.

ST. C.

No. 143.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 702.)

Therapia, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Stokes respecting the state of affairs at Sulina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 143.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sulina, May 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that, since I last had the honour of addressing you, the Russians have begun the erection of another battery close to the hospital of the European Commission of the Danube (within ten yards of the hospital). They are also actively proceeding with the fortifications of Tultcha and other parts of the Danube; in fact, they no doubt intend remaining masters of the Danube and its mouth. Up to the present they have only landed 10-ton guns and mortars. Yesterday the Russian General Ocrotkin and staff arrived here *en route* for Constantinople. They landed and inspected the troops and batteries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) O. STOKES.

No. 144.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 704.)

Therapia, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert respecting the general state of affairs in the district of Philippopolis, and the failure of the negotiations set on foot by the Turkish Commissioners for the pacification of the insurrection of the Rhodope Mountains.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopoli, May 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett returned this evening from the Rhodope Mountains, whither he had been allowed by General Stalibin to proceed, in company with the Turkish Envoy, Ismail Bey. Mr. Bartlett reports that he and the Turkish officer were allowed by the insurgents to come to Foten, inside their lines, a seven hours' ride from Peshtera, at the foot of the hills. They stayed one night at Foten, and were hospitably treated by the insurgents, but were not allowed by the latter to push on to Dewlen, which, the insurgents informed them, was the head-quarters of their principal Chiefs.

When Ismail Bey explained to them the object of his journey, they sent a messenger to Dewlen to inform their leaders (Ali Pasha and Kerim Pasha). On the following morning an answer was received from Dewlen. It was to the effect that Ismail Bey and his party should quit Foten within an hour and return to Peshtera, whither a final reply, regarding the question of submission to the Russian authorities, should be sent to them. Ismail Bey had to comply with this peremptory message, and returned as far as Tchanaktchi, two hours from Peshtera, where Mr. Bartlett, having pressing reasons to return at once to Constantinople, left him early this morning.

Mr. Bartlett reports that the insurgents, of whom he saw about 200 at Foten, were well armed (most of them with Martini-Peabody rifles), and seemed confident of being able to resist should they be attacked by the Russians. They also informed him, confidentially, that their principal leader was "an Englishman," who was then at Dewlen, and that they were being regularly drilled.

There appears now to be less likelihood than ever of the insurgents accepting the proposals of the Turkish Commissioners. The inhabitants of the different mountain districts are in constant communication with each other, and the answer given to the Turkish officers at Jakaya and Borowo probably express the final resolve of the whole insurgent population, a resolve which nothing, since the previous interviews of Ismail Bey and Mustafa Bey with the insurgent Chiefs, has occurred to shake. On the contrary, some recent excesses on the part of the Bulgarians appear to have confirmed the Turkish mountaineers in their determination to resist the advance of the Russians. Mr. Bartlett was told at Foten that the Bulgarians of Yassikoria had, a fortnight ago, murdered three unarmed Turks; and I am informed that the Mussulman villages of Bitowo and Teherstowo, in the hills behind Krytchna, were the other day burnt by the Bulgarians of the plain.

Ismail Bey will probably arrive here to-morrow evening with the definitive answer of the insurgents; and the Turkish Commissioners, Saaich Pasha and Wassa Effendi, will then at once, I believe, return to Constantinople.

The Commissioners have no longer any hope of being able to accomplish the object for which they were sent here, nor any desire to do so. The sufferings of the Turkish returned refugees, of which they have had daily and hourly proof during their stay in Philippopolis, and the difficulty of obtaining any redress, have convinced them that the Mussulman inhabitants of Mount Rhodope are perfectly right in opposing the occupation of their territory.

Three battalions of the Bulgarian legion arrived here from Kazan on Tuesday last; three other battalions of the same force passed through Philippopolis last week on their way to Sofia. The excesses in which these troops indulged immediately on their arrival here nearly induced the Turkish Commissioners to send a messenger to recall Ismail Bey from Foten. But, on reflecting that that officer would probably be on his way back by the time the messenger reached him, they abstained from sending to recall him.

On their march hither the Bulgarian soldiers are reported to have killed three Turkish refugees at Siymen, and to have violated a number of Turkish women in that village. In the town of Philippopolis they have confined themselves to plundering half a dozen Jewish and Greek shops, to tearing up fezzes and turbans, which they snatch from the heads of the wearers, and savagely beating a Greek priest,* and other persons of that nationality. Several of them have been arrested for these acts, but I have not yet heard of any other punishment being awarded to them.

As an instance of the kind of treatment by which the spirit of resistance amongst the Rhodope mountaineers has been strengthened, I may mention the following incident,

* Papa Dimitri, 75 years of age, priest of the Marash quarter.

which has just been reported to me. The circumstantial details given by my informant give it the stamp of credibility.

About two months ago the Turks of Tatarly, in the Ouroudoré Valley (district of Hasskeui) were given safe-conducts by the Russian authorities of the town, and sent back to their village. A few days afterwards three Bulgarians of Hasskeui, named Gherghi Ispetchar (the apothecary), Sterio Djerrah (the surgeon), and Angel Saatdji (the watch-maker), came to Tatarly, and told the principal Turks that they had been sent by the Russian authorities to summon them to Hasskeui. Fourteen of the Turks accordingly accompanied them to the town; but, instead of being taken to the authorities, they were conducted to an inn, known as the "Casino of Djangozoglou," where they were bound and shut up in the loft. They were afterwards led out, one by one, from the loft, by Sterio, Gherghi, Angel, and other Bulgarians, and murdered with knives. One of the Turks, named Shaban, however, escaped by jumping out of the window of the loft, and it is through him that these particulars have now been made known.

On the day after this massacre the murderers took the blood-stained shirt of one of their victims to Tatarly, and showed it to the widow of the murdered man. They then outraged this woman, and several others of the same village.

Gherghi Ispetchar was formerly apothecary to Dr. Stoyancho Tchomakoff (lately one of the Bulgarian members of the Ottoman Council of State); but of late years he had set up as a doctor at Hasskeui, and last winter fled to Russia. When the Russians occupied this province he came back to Hasskeui.

I have seen it lately reported in the "Times" that the Mussulman insurrection had spread to the district of Karadja-Dagh, which lies to the north-east of Philippopolis, and also that the insurgents have made descents upon different parts of the railway in this district. There is not the slightest foundation for either of these statements. The few Turks who have returned to the district of Karadja-Dagh are unarmed and utterly without the means of getting up an insurrection. The Turks of Rhodope have not, as yet, come down into the plain anywhere west of the Hasskeui district, and they declare that they have no intention of assuming the offensive. Should they be attacked, however, and find themselves able to cope successfully with the Russians, it is not unlikely that they may be tempted to come out of their strongholds and endeavour to injure the Russians in the plain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—I was this evening informed by General Stalibin that the insurgents made an attack upon a party of his troops at Pavlowo, near Foten, yesterday, and inflicted on them a loss of seven men wounded. He seemed greatly irritated at the stubbornness of the mountaineers, and he states that if, as appears certain, the pacificatory efforts of the Turkish Commissioners fail, he will order a general forward movement of his troops, not, however, to reduce the insurgents, but merely to drive them further back into the mountains.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopoli, May 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the remnants of the Bulgarian Legion—six battalions—containing in all some 3,000 men, are being concentrated here and at Sofia. Half of them were sent to Sofia in the latter part of last week, and the remainder arrived here, by road, from Kuzan, viâ Tchirpan, on Tuesday, the 21st instant.

The enrolment of Bulgarians by conscription, which I have already reported to your Excellency, is, for the present, I understand, to be limited to the levy of 9,000 men, to fill up the gaps in the legion, and bring it up to its original strength of 12,000 men. The conscription is confined to the districts of Widdin, Rustchuk, Tirnova, Varna, Sofia, Philippopolis, and Slimnia. The districts of Macedonia are not to furnish any recruits for the present. The contingent of the Philippopolis district is fixed at 1,500 men.

The old soldiers of the legion are, on the whole, fine stalwart men, and are said by the Russians to have fought remarkably well at Shipka and at Eski-Zaghra. The recruits are also, for the most part, robust and sturdy in appearance, and they manifest great

enthusiasm. Nearly all of the latter have now been mustered here, and they are undergoing daily drill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 144.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopoli, May 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Ismail Bey returned here from Peshtera this morning. The final answer of the insurgent Chiefs at Dewlen is precisely similar to the answers which were given to the Turkish officers at Bowows, and in the Hasskeui district, and all hope of inducing the insurgents to come to terms is, therefore, at an end.

The Turkish Commissioners, with whom I had a conversation this morning, intend to leave for Constantinople the day after to-morrow. Before quitting Philibé, they will draw up and hand to General Stalibin, a letter or memorandum setting forth their proceedings here in connection with their mission, and expressing in very plain terms their view of the reasons which have made it result in failure. They will, I understand, point out that the Russian authorities might have assisted their mission by adopting a conciliatory policy towards the Mussulman inhabitants of the plain. But as the Russian authorities continue to countenance by their apathy the persecution of the Turkish population submitted to them, the insurgents, the Commissioners will add, have the best of the argument, in refusing to place themselves in a position in which they would undergo similar wrongs.

I have of late heard even Russian officers justify the determination of the insurgents. They say that any population endowed with a particle of spirit would act in the same manner. They blame their Administration for not making, during the four months it has been established here, a single serious example of the Bulgarians who have committed outrages on the Turkish population. One officer of the Hussars cites an instance in which he caused the priest of Sotir, a Bulgarian village at the foot of Rhodope, to be arrested and sent to Philibé. This priest, Popo Dimitri by name, murdered in cold blood some two months ago a Turkish refugee who had come from the mountains into the plain to ascertain from personal experience whether it would be safe to bring down his wife and family. His fate of course deterred many other Turkish fugitives from returning. Pope Dimitri was kept in prison for a day, and then sent back in freedom to his village, where he still officiates.

This is only one out of numbers of kindred examples.

A grievance which the Turks are at present suffering, and which seems comparatively slight, but is in reality a serious one, is the regulation introduced some weeks ago, forbidding the refugees to cross by the bridge from the northern to the southern side of the Maritza river. This measure was, I believe, adopted with the object of clearing the town of the numerous mendicants, principally gipsies, who were then swarming in the streets. Nearly all the Turks not inhabitants of the town were transported to the northern bank of the river.

The result of the measure now is that whereas some of the Turks might find employment in the town, they cannot come over in search of it; a Turk may be dying of illness on the other side of the river, but no person of his religion can cross the river in search of a doctor; Turkish women may be outraged day after day, but if they attempt to come to the authorities for redress they are stopped by the sentinels at the bridge. Owing to this regulation it is to be feared that many crimes committed at the expense of the Turks on the northern side of the Maritza never come to light.

A poor widow of Kyzanlik managed to wade the stream to-day, and came to me in the deepest distress. She begged to be taken into the Compassionate Fund Asylum because she was suffering great hardships and ill-treatment at Karobi Aku. She narrated to me that she had with her own hands dug out a kind of chamber underground (working in the night-time to avoid notice) in which to conceal her daughter, a girl of 16, whose honour had more than once been attempted by the soldiers and Bulgarian inhabitants of the quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 144.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopoli, May 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that preparations are being made here to give a pompous reception to Prince Dondoukoff-Korvakoff, the Russian Imperial Commissioner for Bulgaria, as he is now styled, who is to arrive here to-morrow. Triumphal arches have been run up, the houses are being decorated; the heads of the different communities and the schools have been ordered to repair to the railway station to-morrow evening to welcome the Prince, and the wall inclosing the courtyard of the principal mosque has been pulled down to widen the street through which he will have to pass.

Some members of his suite have already arrived here, and have been behaving in a very unbecoming manner towards the Christian inhabitants of the town. They turned the family of M. Thomoglou, a Greek, out of his house the day before yesterday, threatened to beat his wife because she protested against being made to give up her home to them, and made disgraceful proposals to the other women of the establishment. The noise of these extraordinary proceedings alarmed all the neighbours; and the incident is the more remarkable as M. Thomoglou is, and has been for years, a Russian subject.

The Bulgarians, as well as the Greeks, are beginning now to complain of the conduct of the Russians towards them. Some of the leading Bulgarians also appear to deplore the excesses committed by the rabble of their community, and blame the Russian authorities for not taking any active steps to put a stop to them. The Bulgarian members of the administration say that they are kept completely under the thumb of the Russians, and that the latter resent any suggestions in the public interest made by them (the Bulgarians), telling them to mind their business.

The Administrative Council (formerly Idaré-Medjliss) presided over by Mr. John Gueshoff, has, however, lately adopted two good measures, which, it is to be hoped, will be properly carried out. They have begun to allot small supplies of grain to the Turkish villages in the neighbourhood; and they have decided that all Turkish house and landed property shall be given up to the owners on being claimed.

In the meantime, however, as most of the owners are still absent, such Turkish property as mills, shops, farms, fields, &c., is being let, and, if the owners return before the leases are up, they will have to wait till the expiration of the leases before receiving back their property; but the rent, in such cases, will be handed over to them.

In most of the instances in which Turkish merchants have claimed restitution of their goods, I regret to say, they have not yet recovered them. Hadji Shaban Agna, whose case I reported in my despatch to Mr. Consul Blunt of the 10th March, has just received 2,000 bushels of rice belonging to him; but it was not given up until after he had overcome difficulties and delays which have made him forego all claim to the remainder of his sequestered belongings, and after he had paid a considerable "bakshish" to the Russian Commissariat officials, in whose hands the rice was.

In conclusion of this despatch I will mention an incident characteristic of the spirit which appears to guide the Russian official class in Bulgaria.

The Jewish inhabitants of Carlowa, now refugees in Philippopolis, and reduced to great distress, lately petitioned the chief of the police for succour. The petition was submitted to General Stalibin, who, I am sorry to say, refused to grant any assistance to them, on the ground that, by their denunciations, they brought about the massacre of Bulgarians at Carlowa last year.

Some few of the Carlowa Jews did, I believe, by their exaggerated testimony against the Christians of that town, stimulate the vengeance of the Turks; but this is surely not sufficient reason why the whole Jewish community of Carlowa, consisting of 360 souls, should be denied the relief which they need at present to keep them from starving.

General Stalibin is, perhaps, the most liberal-minded Russian superior officer in Philippopoli, and has given proofs of a desire to show himself impartial, and his reply to the application of the Carlowa Jews was not such as might have been expected of him.

I have obtained for your Excellency's perusal a translated copy of the petition and of the reply which the General wrote at the back of it, and I forward the document herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 144.

Petition of Jews of Carlowa.

A la Direction de la Police en Ville.

Excellence,

CINQUANTE-DEUX familles, composées de 358 âmes, de nationalité Israélite, de Carlowa, ayant pris la fuite ici, en abandonnant tout ce que nous possédions, nous nous trouvons aujourd'hui dans une tellement grande misère que le pain quotidien nous manque. Comme nous n'avons à espérer d'aucun part des secours, nous, soussignés, de la part des susdites familles, nous avons l'honneur de prier très humblement votre Excellence qu'il nous soit accordé un petit subside en blé pour pouvoir nous nourrir pendant quelque temps.

Nous avons, &c.
(Signé) HADJI PERSIADO.
SOLOMAN EKOUSH.
SAMUEL DJALDETTI.

Vu, le Chef de district (Nachalnik Okrouga) n'est pas venu chez moi, et comme il est de ma connaissance que les Juifs de Carlowa étaient, par leurs dénonciations, la cause des massacres à Carlowa, je trouve pour le mieux qu'ils aillent en Turquie et qu'ils n'aient à attendre de secours des Bulgares. Aussi, pour ma part, je ne les secourrai pas.

(Signé) STALIBIN.

Inclosure 6 in No. 144.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopoli, May 27, 1878.

Sir,

The Turkish Commissioners start to-morrow morning on their return to Constantinople. They have not, as they thought of doing, written the Memorandum which they proposed to address to General Stalibin, the General having himself, they inform me, admitted to them that one of the causes which prevents the pacification of the Rhodope districts was the excesses committed by the Bulgarians.

His Excellency, in throwing the blame upon the Bulgarians, does not seem to have been conscious that his admission amounted to a condemnation of the Russian administration, which cannot, by any process of reasoning, unburden itself of the responsibility of allowing to continue for months a state of things disgraceful to civilization.

The stubbornness of the insurgents is also to be accounted for in part, according to the General, by two other circumstances. One of these is the hope which exists among them of being eventually backed up materially by England; and the other that there are in their ranks a number of refugees and desperate characters from other parts, who, being strangers in the Rhodope region, have nothing to lose by keeping up the struggle.

If public rumour may be credited, the affair of which General Stalibin spoke to me as having occurred at Pawhowo, was much more serious than he stated it to be. It is said that 200 Russian infantry were surrounded by the insurgents, and escaped only by cutting their way through their enemies; in which operation they lost sixty men. All reports that reach Philippopolis concerning the insurrection are, however, so greatly exaggerated that it is probable that the General's version of the affair is closer to the truth than the report current in the town.

The only other fact of interest in regard to the insurrection that has come to my knowledge since last week is that a party of insurgents had the boldness to venture to within half-an-hour of Staninak last night to the Bulgarian monastery of St. Panskowi, whence they drove off several head of cattle.

The Greek inhabitants of Akhir-Tchelebi are said to be quite unmolested by the insurgents; but the latter are stated to have hanged some Bulgarians in retaliation for the murder of three Turks at Yassikoria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 145.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 705.)
Therapia, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade reporting the state of affairs in the Province of Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, May 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that during the past few days all kinds of rumours have been afloat here as to the intention of the Russians to occupy Shumla and Varna, and although I have seen several letters from Bazardjik stating this, and one from a person who has affairs with the Russians, still I do not credit them, as the military authorities here say that they know nothing on the subject.

My humble opinion is that these rumours are purposely circulated by the Russians through people whom they can get to believe them in the hope that the confusion thus created amongst the population may have some influence on the Turkish authorities in their favour.

The 1st June has now been fixed upon for the arrival of the Russians, and consequently various Mussulman traders are quitting this and Shumla.

From the inquiries I have made from people recently arrived from Bazardjik I cannot find that the Russians are making the preparations that would be necessary were these reports true, and, if they are not, it seems surprising that the authorities here do nothing to assure the people and prevent great inconvenience, to say nothing else, to which they are now putting themselves. Between this and Bazardjik no advance has been made by the Russians; but in the district between Rasgrad and Shumla troops have been recently moved nearer the latter place, but, as the Russian system has hitherto been one of ostentatious pressure, I believe that their present proceedings are only a continuation thereof. There are no Russians now at Pravady; had they really any intention of occupying Shumla or Varna I think they would certainly not have removed their troops from Pravady.

The Russians are also said to be disarming the Mussulmans in that part of the Aïdos Kaïmakamlik north of the Balkans, and within the Turkish lines. The Vali told Vice-Consul Dalziel that he has sent two battalions of infantry to the spot. In fact from what I hear from many quarters the Mussulmans are being disarmed and even ill-treated by the Russians.

The head railway authorities have left for Rustchuk, the Russians having called them with the intention of having the line repaired at once.

I have further the honour to inclose copy of a telegram from General Fazli Pasha, commanding at Shumla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 146.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 706.)
Therapia, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a report addressed to me by Dr. Stoker, who has lately, at my request, visited the district of Bourgas, to inquire into the condition of the refugees there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Dr. Stoker to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, May 24, 1878.

Sir,

I ARRIVED in Bourgas on the 14th of this month, and went next day to visit the refugees collected at Chingani Iskelessi, a distance of about two hours from Bourgas. I found about 12,000 refugees there all told. These people came originally from Slivna, Yamboli, Karnabat, and Aidos, but during the last five or six months they took refuge in the Balkans, and it is only lately that they have come down to the sea to embark for Asia Minor. They told me that about 3,000 of their number had died in the last six months. At present they are not by any means in a desperate condition, they have some cattle, and, as far as I saw, are well supplied with flour. At Chingani Iskelessi about 6,000 to 7,000 Bulgarians were collected, under pretext of looking for the cattle stolen from them by the Bashi-Bazouks; there were also present the Medgliss and several Russian officials. The system which seemed to me to be generally followed was to claim all the beasts, and if the claim was disproved, to compel the unfortunate owner to sell his beasts at an absurdly low price, for instance, a good ox for 3 liras. Several such cases I saw personally, and on all sides the Turks complained of the way their cattle were being not bought but stolen. On the 2nd May 150 Russian soldiers surrounded the village of Kara Agatch, and summoned the people to surrender; when the villagers had delivered up their arms the males were seized and locked up in a separate place, while the women were violated and the village sacked. No Bulgarians were allowed to accompany the Russians in this expedition. I left Bourgas in a caique and went as far as Gergeke, on the coast where I landed, and rode through the villages of Kodja-Keui, Evojeh, Armoutkeui to Varna. As yet no Bulgarians have entered the district known as the Musjeuri Balkans, but they are close round the border, and the Turks are leaving the vicinity of the Russians and emigrating towards the sea. A Kaimakam resides in the village Svoyik, and conducts the business of the place under the control of the Pasha of Varna. The people who, up to the present time, have been quiet, are now becoming alarmed at the threatening aspect of the Russians.

At the villages of Daoutz, Yiuyi, and Tartar-Keui and others, although there is plenty of grass the Russians have turned out their horses to graze in the young crops, which are, of course, entirely destroyed. They have not pursued the same course in the Bulgarian villages.

The Russians are raising levies all over the country from among the Bulgarians, amongst other places at the village of Sugulu, situated in the Missavin Balkans, within the line of demarcation fixed by the armistice. The members of the Council of Archila were sent to this village to demand the levies, but the inhabitants refused to go, saying that they were Turkish subjects and not liable to military service, whereupon the Russians sent 120 soldiers to enforce their demand, upon which the inhabitants appealed to the Kaimakam for protection, and he went to Archila to remonstrate with the Russian authorities for attempting to violate the line of demarcation. The answer was, that as peace was finally concluded the whole country was under Russian control, and the line no longer existed; whereupon he replied, that if the people were taken it was under protest, and the matter was referred to Varna. The sentiment of the people of the districts through which I passed was without exception one of friendliness towards England, and a desire to fight the Russians, but with English officers, their words, "After God we trust and look to the English."

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STOKER.

No. 147.

Consul Sunderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 43. Political.)
Galatz, May 15, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42, Political, of the 14th instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that yesterday there was a further arrival of about 700 to 800 Russian reserves by the Bender-Galatz Railway, who again left in the evening by the Bucharest line. To-day a regiment of Uhlans, about 1,000 in number, arrived at Galatz from the direction of Ibraila.

I understand that forty heavy guns in all are to be sent from here to Toultcha.

Mr. Vice-Consul Brown reports that about 4,000 additional cavalry have crossed at Ibraïla. These troops rest for a short time at Ibraïla, and then proceed—some towards Bucharest, some towards Barboshi and Galatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 148.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 45. Political.)
Galatz, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the following movements of Russian troops since my despatch No. 43, Political, of the 15th instant:—

On the 16th instant about 800 dragoons arrived at Galatz from Ibraïla, and 1,000 cavalry, which had arrived the previous day, left in the direction of Reni. About 700 infantry of the Russian Reserves arrived by the Bender-Galatz Railway in the morning, of which about 600 left the same evening by the Bucharest line.

On the 17th instant the 800 dragoons above mentioned marched in the direction of Reni, and were accompanied by the battery of field artillery which had been here some time. The remainder of the Reserves who had come in on the 16th went on by train towards Bucharest. From 2,000 to 2,500 Cossacks arrived at Galatz from Ibraïla.

To-day these Cossacks have left, marching towards Reni, and I hear that Russian cavalry are returning to Russia by Bolgrad and Cubei.

It seems certain that this cavalry, which has all crossed at Ibraïla, does not belong to General Zimmerman's command, and Mr. Vice-Consul Brown informs me that some of the men stated in conversation that they had come from the vicinity of Constantinople.

The two Russian steamers whose arrival was reported in my despatch No. 42, Political, of the 14th instant, still remain here, and a third has arrived and taken on board ten heavy guns of the forty parked near the railway station. All three steamers are now loaded, and they are expected to proceed down river to-morrow or on the morning of the 20th instant.

From 800 to 900 Turkish prisoners arrived by rail from Bucharest on the 17th instant. They were transferred on board the Austrian steamer "Flora," and left early this morning for Constantinople.

Three large barges, fitted up as hospitals, have landed Russian sick at Reni, and returned up river this afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 149.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 46. Political.)
Galatz, May 20, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45, Political, of the 18th instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that on the 18th instant about 1,500 Russian troops left Galatz, it was stated, for Buzeu. On the 19th a battery of field artillery arrived from the direction of Ibraïla to replace that which had left on the 17th.

One of the Russian vessels, with guns and ammunition, received orders on the evening of the 18th instant to proceed up river, and left the same day; the other two remain here.

I have to-day learnt that preparations are being made at Berlad for a Russian camp, and that it seems that a branch line of railway is in contemplation from Berlad to Cahul, and thence to join the Bender-Galatz Railway at or near Bolgrad.

At Focshani the eight heavy field-guns have been placed in an earthwork just outside the southern barrier of the town. Russian officers are taking houses there for six months.

From Ismail I hear that the cavalry was sent into the interior on the 12th instant, and was to be replaced by others coming from Reni, probably a portion of those who have

passed through Galatz. On the 16th instant about 1,000 infantry were sent to Toultcha to aid in the construction of batteries.

At Reni six hospital-sheds have been completed, also five landing-stages at the new quay. Apparently there were no guns mounted in the batteries.

At Isaakcha there appear to be no works in construction.

At Toultcha one new battery has been completed on the east side of the town at a place known as "The Rock," and 300 yards lower down the river, on a rocky bluff, about 100 yards from the bank, another battery is being made. About 2½ miles south-east of Toultcha, and at a distance of about 1½ miles from the river bank, 200 men were at work constructing a line of fortifications on a rocky cliff about 60 feet high, the stone face of which is easily seen from the river. Strong coasting-lighters are being collected at Toultcha to be sunk with stone if required.

Your Lordship is no doubt informed of what is passing at Sulina. I have taken the liberty of mentioning the localities of the new batteries at Toultcha, as an opportunity offered for obtaining information, and I was unwilling not to profit by it, although Toultcha is out of my district. In another ten days a better judgment can be formed of the character of most of the works.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 150.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 15. Political.)
Adrianople, May 25, 1878.

My Lord,

THERE has been further fighting, attended with varying success, between the insurgents and the Russian regular and volunteer forces in the neighbourhood of Ortakioï.

It appears that, although the Russians dislodged the Turks from their positions near Muselim on the 14th instant, they did not occupy that village and Ateren till the 17th, when a combined force of Russians and volunteers from Plivoun, supported by artillery, carried, sacked, and burnt them both. Ateren is two hours, Muselim about six hours, and Plivoun four hours from Ortakioï.

On the same day (the 17th) 500 Russian infantry were dispatched from Adrianople towards Ortakioï.

On the 18th instant the insurgents attacked the Bulgarian village of Brioren, one and a half hour from Ortakioï, towards the Arda. The village being held by an insufficient force of volunteers, who at once retreated, it was carried and burnt, the volunteers losing four or five men.

Nothing further is reported to have happened in those parts until yesterday, when a Russian detachment attempted to make a reconnaissance in the hills above Ortakioï (probably towards the above-mentioned village of Brioren), but was obliged to retire before a superior force of insurgents.

About 100 wounded Russians arrived here by rail from Philippopolis on the 21st instant. Others are expected to follow. So far as I have been able to ascertain these casualties are the result only of engagements already reported.

In a letter from Adrianople of the 17th instant, published in the "Levant Herald," mention is made of standards, insurgent prisoners, and many cartloads of weapons as having been brought in on the day previous. A statement to that effect came to my knowledge at the time, but on inquiry it was not verified.

A concentration of the insurgent forces took place some days ago in the hills opposite Sofular, towards Demotica, but it does not appear to have been followed up as yet by any offensive movement. The demonstration was probably provoked by the aggressive attitude of the Greek population in those parts, a subject on which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 13 of the 14th instant.

I regret to state that acts of pillage continue to be committed by the Greeks and Bulgarians near Demotica, against their Turkish neighbours, and acts of bloodshed are also now reported.

On the 12th instant fifteen cows and buffaloes belonging to the Turkish inhabitants of Demotica were carried off when at pasture, and appropriated by the Greeks and Bulgarians of that town.

On the following day the Christians of the same town carried off from the

Turkish village of Lutfi-Pasha, one and a half hour from Demotica, thirty horses belonging to that village.

At Tchaoushli, a mixed Greek and Turkish village, two hours from Demotica, a silk factory and a barn belonging to Alim-oglu Mehmed Aga, a Turkish notable of Demotica, have been destroyed, and 260 kilog. of wheat, Indian corn, and rye, which were in the barn, plundered by the Greeks of Akalan. These have also taken possession of a mill, the property of the same person, and they now work it for their own account. Mehmed Aga has petitioned the authorities both at Demotica and at Adrianople on the subject, but so far without obtaining redress, or the promise of it.

On the 17th instant, a party of Turks from the same village of Tchaoushli were returning home with nine waggons, in which they had conveyed to this town supplies requisitioned by the military authorities. On the road between Yeni-Kioi and Bazarli, three and four hours from Adrianople, they were stopped by the Greek inhabitants of those villages, who, after robbing them of their clothes and money, carried off eight out of their nine pair of draught oxen. They, moreover, wounded two of the Turks with hatchets, one named Delioglu Said in the back, and another, Hassanoglu Omer in the left shoulder, and they killed a third, named Alioglu Ahmed. It was this last man's oxen which were spared. There were with the Turkish party ten waggons belonging to and conducted by Greeks from the village of Kiretchli, one hour from Tchaoushli, who had also been carrying supplies to Adrianople. These Greeks neither took part in the act of pillage nor were themselves plundered. In this case, likewise, and indeed, in every other of a similar kind which I am cognizant of, no redress, nor the semblance of it, has been afforded by the Russian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 151.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 16. Political.)

Adrianople, May 26, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches to your Lordship, No. 13 of the 14th instant, and No. 14 of the 25th instant, I have the satisfaction to state that the Russian authorities have afforded redress in the matter of the acts of pillage committed by the Greek inhabitants of the villages near Demotica on their Turkish neighbours. The robbers have been compelled to restore their plunder, and squads of Russian troops have been distributed among the Turkish villages in that district, with a view to prevent the recurrence of similar disorders.

I am unable to learn, however, that these measures of restitution and repression have been accompanied by any form of punishment, or that they have been applied generally to other parts of the country, where the Bulgarians have been guilty of similar and worse excesses. It remains to be seen whether an example will be made of the authors of the acts of bloodshed which accompanied the pillage committed, in the vicinity of this town, by Greeks on the Turks of Tchaoushli, on the 17th instant, and of which the details were reported in my last despatch to your Lordship. No action appears to have been yet taken in the matter of that outrage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 152.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 8.)

(Communication Personnelle et Confidentielle.)

Sublime Porte, le 30 Mai, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

NOUS savions depuis longtemps que la Russie appelait de tous ses vœux le jour où il lui serait possible d'amener l'expulsion de la population Musulmane de la Bulgarie. Ce jour tant souhaité est arrivé, et nous voyons la Russie employer tous les moyens imaginables pour empêcher le retour dans leurs foyers des Musulmans qui se sont vus forcés par

les exactions et les vexations de toutes sortes que les Bulgares ont exercées contre eux avec la tolérance, je puis même dire avec la connivence, des autorités Russes, d'abandonner leurs terres et leurs biens pour sauver leur vie, leur honneur, en se réfugiant dans la capitale et dans d'autres villes de l'Empire.

Votre Excellence ne saurait se faire une idée juste de la misère qui entoure ces malheureux et des souffrances que leur émigration en masse leur a fait endurer. Celui qui se croyait le plus heureux la veille même de l'arrivée des Russes dans son pays, se voit aujourd'hui réduit à mendier un morceau de pain pour prolonger un jour de plus son existence. Des milliers de familles qui se trouvaient dans des conditions qui ne leur laissaient rien à désirer sont à l'heure qu'il est réduites à la dernière extrémité.

Tous nos efforts pour obtenir le rapatriement des réfugiés sont restés infructueux devant la résistance et le mauvais vouloir du quartier-général Russe, qui met toujours en avant la question de leur sécurité personnelle dans les villages où il n'y aurait pas de troupes Russes. Nous avons demandé la publication d'une Proclamation de la part du Grand-Duc Nicolas appelant les Bulgares à la concorde, leur recommandant de s'abstenir de tout acte de violence et de cruauté contre leurs compatriotes Musulmans, et les menaçant en même temps des peines les plus sévères dans le cas où ils se permettraient de contrevenir à ces injonctions. Le Grand-Duc nous a promis cette Proclamation, et pourtant elle n'a point paru jusqu'à présent, malgré nos instances plusieurs fois renouvelées.

Prévoyant ces lenteurs ou craignant l'insuccès d'une entente officielle, plusieurs émigrés ont essayé de retourner chez eux de leur propre chef, en s'exposant aux risques et périls d'un pareil voyage. A ceux-ci les autorités Russes ont opposé toutes les entraves administratives et militaires qu'il a été possible d'imaginer. Les formalités d'écritures, de passeport, de vérification, &c., ont été multipliées au point de rendre leur accomplissement quasi impossible de la part de simples paysans qui évidemment ne peuvent s'y retrouver.

Cette circonstance et une série d'autres faits qu'il serait trop long d'énumérer ici prouvent jusqu'à l'évidence que la destruction de la population Musulmane de la Bulgarie est irrévocablement décidée en principe par le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg.

Quant aux habitants Musulmans qui n'ont pas, pour différents motifs, quitté leur pays, ils se trouvent dans des conditions déplorables. Littéralement dépouillés par les Bulgares, ils souffrent de la plus affreuse misère. Les autorités militaires Russes ferment les yeux aux méfaits et aux actes de barbarie commis contre eux par les Bulgares.

Dès que les Russes entrent dans une ville, leur premier soin est de désarmer la population Musulmane en laissant les Bulgares armés jusqu'aux dents. C'est ainsi que les Musulmans sont livrés entre les mains de leurs implacables ennemis.

Pour ce qui est des traitements exercés par les troupes Russes à l'égard des populations Musulmanes, ils sont révoltants. Les soldats agissent dans les localités occupées comme on n'agit même pas dans les pays conquis par la force des armes. Tout ce que les Musulmans possèdent de bétail, de céréales, et autres leur est enlevé, tandis que les Bulgares sont exempts de toute espèce de réquisition.

Le chiffre de la population Musulmane qui s'est déplacée, par suite de l'occupation Russe, de la Bulgarie, et d'une grande partie du Vilayet d'Andrinople, s'élève à 500,000 âmes à peu près, dont le tiers a péri par le froid, par la famine, par différentes maladies, et par la grande misère, malgré les secours de plus d'un genre prodigués par le Gouvernement Impérial, par les populations des villes et des campagnes, et par les dons généreux de l'Europe.

En un mot, les actes de barbarie, les atrocités, et les souffrances subis par les Musulmans n'ont pas d'exemple dans les annales des peuples.

J'ai cru devoir signaler à votre Excellence la centième partie de ce qui s'est passé, et de ce qui se passe encore en Bulgarie, pour qu'elle veuille bien donner à ces faits déplorables, à ces malheurs navrants, oralement ou par écrit, au moyen de la presse ou par toute autre voie, la plus grande publicité, sans toutefois en faire connaître la source.

Après tout ce qui a été dit, écrit, et publié contre nous, il est bon que l'opinion publique soit enfin éclairée sur la situation qui est faite à des centaines de milliers d'êtres humains, soit directement par les troupes Russes, soit indirectement par les populations Bulgares. Au milieu des désordres d'une insurrection sauvage, le Gouvernement Impérial n'ayant pu empêcher la destruction d'un petit nombre de villages, on excita contre lui les sentiments de toute l'Europe. Que dira-t-on aujourd'hui lorsqu'on saura l'étendue des calamités qui ont été déchaînées sur toutes nos provinces d'Europe par ceux-là mêmes qui s'étaient donné pour mission de faire taire les sentiments de haine et de vengeance, et d'inaugurer l'ère de réconciliation des différentes classes de nos populations? Votre Excellence aura soin, d'ailleurs, de faire sentir qu'en reportant des regards de tristesse sur les

vastes champs des malheurs et d'angoisse qui s'étendent dans toute la Roumélie, et en y appelant l'attention du monde civilisé, on n'obéit à aucun sentiment de récrimination inspiré par des vues politiques, et que, pour le moment, ce qu'il y a de plus pressé c'est de signaler, de constater, les faits, d'élever la voix en faveur d'une grande question d'humanité, et de ne pas laisser s'achever, au milieu du silence, des ténèbres, et de l'indifférence une œuvre de destruction dont les dimensions effraient l'imagination. Ce qu'il y aurait à souhaiter actuellement, se serait de parvenir à saisir la conscience de l'Europe et en particulier de l'Angleterre de ce mouvement de pitié et de commisération pour de grands malheurs immérités, qui est un des caractères distinctifs de la civilisation moderne.

Veuillez bien vous inspirer de ce qui précède pour en faire parvenir tout ou partie, sans caractère officiel bien entendu, à la connaissance du public, et toujours de la manière la plus indirecte possible.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 153.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 462.)
Paris, June 5, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that the German Ambassador delivered to him, the day before yesterday, the formal invitation to attend a Congress at Berlin on the 13th of this month. He added that he dispatched yesterday an answer from the French Government accepting the invitation, but at the same time repeating the reservations already made by France. In fact the acceptance of the invitation was, he said, made conditional on its being laid down that no questions not arising directly and naturally out of the Turco-Russian war should be mooted in the Congress, and specifically that no questions relative to Egypt, Syria, or the Holy Places, should be brought forward.

M. Waddington told me, in conclusion, that he purposed to set out for Berlin on the evening of Sunday next, the 9th instant, and he repeated that he himself, and the Comte de St. Vallier, the French Ambassador at Berlin, would be the French Plenipotentiaries, and that he should be accompanied by M. Desprez, the Director of the Political Department in the French Foreign Office, but that M. Desprez would not be a Plenipotentiary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 154.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 548.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 7, 1878.

I HAD a long conversation with the Sultan to-day. He appeared to be perfectly recovered from his delusion, and spoke most sensibly on all subjects.

He has so strong a feeling against Sadyk Pasha for personal reasons, that he will not send him to the Congress, and I could not prevail upon him to alter his mind. He has named Karatheodory Effendi First Plenipotentiary in order, he told me, to show that he was determined to make no distinction of creed, and to employ Christians in highest posts.

The other Plenipotentiaries will probably be Mehemet Ali Pasha, late Commander-in-chief, and Sadullah Bey, Turkish Ambassador at Berlin. The Plenipotentiaries will probably leave to-morrow.

No. 155.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 550.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 8, 1878.

SEVERAL of the Powers having declined to agree to the proposed increase of duties, the matter appears to have fallen through.

No. 156.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 551.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 8, 1878.

CARATHEODORY EFFENDI has been raised to the rank of Mushir and appointed Minister of Public Works and member of the Cabinet, in order to give him proper position at the Congress.

No. 157.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 552.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 8, 1878.

THE three persons mentioned in my telegram of yesterday (No. 546) go as Turkish Plenipotentiaries to the Congress. Sultan has asked me personally to recommend them to the good offices of yourself and Lord Beaconsfield, and to ask you to advise and help them.

No. 158.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 553.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 8, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari:—

"I have received assurances from the Porte that, although it has serious cause of complaint against Montenegro, the most positive orders have been sent to the Commanders of the Turkish troops at Scutari not to give the slightest cause for a recommencement of hostilities with the Montenegrins."

No. 159.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 129. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, June 8, 1878.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF says that Prince Bariatinsky is not appointed nor destined to a military command, as reported in my telegram of yesterday.

No. 160.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 394.)
Foreign Office, June 8, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 376 of the 5th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that the Austrian Ambassador called at this Office to-day, and said that he had been informed confidentially by Count Andrassy that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed not to protest against the levy of the additional duty of 2 per cent. on the following conditions:—

1. That it was to be restricted to Constantinople.
2. That it was not to be continued for more than one year.
3. That some guarantee was given that its product was applied to the purposes for which it was levied.
4. That all the other Powers concurred in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 161.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 159.) *Washington, May 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 148 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith several additional extracts from different American newspapers, relative to the navigation laws of the United States, and the so-called "Neutrality" Act of 1818.

The first of these is an article from the "New York Herald" of the 21st instant, recommending a change in the navigation laws to the extent of allowing American registry to foreign built vessels, provided they are owned and manned by Americans; the object of this change being to take advantage of the opportunity of a war between England and Russia to buy English vessels, which the article believes will be sold at half price.

Another article, in the next day's "Herald," is in the same strain, urges the admission of foreign built ships to American registry as a question of the highest magnitude, and cites the example of England both with regard to that and the freedom of the coasting trade; but considers it advisable that the American monopoly of the coasting trade should not be interfered with at present.

An article in the "New York Herald" of the 23rd instant deprecates any interpretation of the Act of 1818 which would prevent United States' citizens from selling ships of war to Russia, and thinks that in case an appeal were made to the Courts of Justice they would not take that view of the Act.

The "New York World" of the 24th instant also recommends that foreign built vessels should be admitted to American registry, but thinks that even in time of peace the sale of vessels of war to Russia, with intent to prey upon our commerce, ought not to be allowed by the United States' Government.

The "Herald" of the same day renews the attack upon Congress, and makes an earnest appeal to it to pass an Act, authorizing the registry in this country of foreign built vessels.

An article in the "Herald" of the 25th instant insists that the Act of 1818 operates only in time of war, and that it should be interpreted so as to assimilate it to English law on the same subject.

Your Lordship will perceive that this newspaper has entirely changed its views upon this question within the last few days, and on observing that some of its arguments and even phrases are very similar to those recently used by Mr. Evarts in conversation with me, I cannot but suppose that he has at least given his views upon the subject to the correspondent of the "Herald" at Washington, with whom I know him to be on intimate terms. Judging from his observations to me, I should say that Mr. Evarts has himself changed his opinion as to the effect of the Act of 1818.

A short article in the "New York Times" of the same day also argues that the United States' Government cannot prevent the sale of vessels to Russia until there be a declaration of war.

The "New York World" of yesterday is of opinion that the simple sale of ships of war, even fully equipped, to a foreign Government, cannot be prevented, but that hostile operations must not be permitted within the jurisdiction of the United States.

An article in the "New York Tribune" of to-day has for its object to show what will be the duties of the United States, under the Three Rules of the Treaty of Washington, after a declaration of war. It suggests that fresh legislation may be necessary on the part of the United States, to enable the executive to carry out the stipulations of that Treaty.

The "World" of to-day has an article showing that it was not the "Alabama" and other Confederate cruizers which destroyed the shipping trade of the United States, but the Tariff and Navigation Laws, which prevented Americans from buying cheap ships wherever they could find them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 162.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 160. Confidential.) *Washington, May 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been unable to ascertain that Russian officers or agents have as yet purchased more than two vessels in this country which are intended to be used as cruizers against our commerce, viz., the "State of California," and the "Columbus," both of which are now at Cramp's yard, at Philadelphia, being equipped as ships of war as expeditiously as possible. Russian officers have no doubt examined other vessels with a view to purchasing them, but I do not believe that the sale has been concluded of any but the two above-mentioned, of which I have given notice to Admiral Sir Astley Cooper Key.

I have not yet been able to discover that any guns have been purchased for these vessels, but I have instructed Her Majesty's Consul at Boston to inquire as to the truth of a rumour recently current that guns had been ordered from a manufactory at that port.

As your Lordship will perceive from the article in the "New York World" of the 26th instant, inclosed in my despatch No. 159 of to-day's date, one of the Russian officers is said to have stated that the sailors on board the "Cimbria" had been brought out to man three cruizers to be bought in the United States, of which he believed two had been already purchased, and were at Philadelphia. It is, therefore, possible that there is no intention of purchasing more than three vessels.

It has been impossible to discover what will be the exact course of the United States' Government with regard to these vessels. I have made no formal or official representation upon the subject, but have merely stated to Mr. Evarts from time to time for his information, that the "State of California" and the "Columbus" had been purchased by Russian Agents, and that they were being so altered as to make them suitable for cruizers or ships of war. On my first announcing the sale of the "State of California," he expressed his opinion that sales of merchant vessels were legal even in time of war; but that if the armaments were proceeded with, his Government would have to consider what measures should be taken.

Subsequently, upon my informing him that the two vessels were being converted into men-of-war, he stated that there was no law which forbade such a proceeding in time of peace, and on my alluding to the Act of 1818, he said that it referred only to a time of war, that it was a Neutrality Act, that there could be no neutrals without belligerents, and he refused even to admit my assertion that at least sections 1, 2, and 10 of that Act were operative during time of peace.

But, notwithstanding what he says to me upon this subject, I am satisfied both from his observations to me, and from what I hear from other people, that his Government is greatly embarrassed as to the attitude it should assume in the event of the Russian officers pretending to man the vessels with their own sailors from the "Cimbria" in United States' ports, hoisting the pendant and declaring them to be Russian men-of-war, the whole operation having been completed within United States' jurisdiction. From what I can gather, I have reason to suspect that Mr. Evarts, fearing that such might be the intention of the Russian officers, has called, or will call, upon my Russian colleague to state what are the intentions of his Government with regard to this matter, and has informed him, or will inform him, that although it may be in accordance with law for the Russian Government to purchase ships of war, even fully armed, in this country during time of peace, the United States' Government cannot allow these vessels to be manned by Russian sailors and to become Russian vessels of war within the jurisdiction of the United States.

The result of such a measure might be that the vessels so armed and equipped would be taken outside the jurisdiction of the United States by an American crew, and that the Russian officers and men would be transferred there, perhaps on the high seas.

This proceeding might be prejudicial to us, because the American crew who took the vessel out might be composed of picked men, who would go out with the understanding that they should subsequently form part of the regular crew of the vessel when she became a man-of-war. A few such men might be more dangerous than the whole of the Russian part of the crew.

I cannot, however, do more than express a suspicion that the above may be the course adopted by this Government, a suspicion inferred from Mr. Evarts' observations

to myself and others. Even these, however, are not much to be trusted, for I perceive that he has no very fixed opinions upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 163.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 162. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Washington, May 28, 1878.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 22nd instant, I requested the Legal Adviser of this Legation to give me his opinion, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, on the question which was transmitted to me in that telegram.

I deemed it expedient at the same time to put the same question to another lawyer in Washington, and selected for that purpose Mr. Hubley Ashton, who enjoys a high reputation.

In the absence of Mr. Carlisle on account of his health, his partner, Mr. McPherson, acts as adviser to the Legation.

I now have the honour to inclose copies of the opinions transmitted to me by them. Your Lordship will perceive that they agree that the United States' Government has not the power designated in your Lordship's telegram, but Mr. Hubley Ashton adds that after a declaration of war, the owners of the vessels thus equipped in the United States, whoever they might be, may be called upon to give security, in accordance with the 10th and 11th sections of the Act of 1818, that they would not be employed against a Power with which the United States are at peace.

I am not aware that the two gentlemen whose opinions are inclosed had any communication with each other upon the subject; indeed, I believe they had not, and that their opinions are entirely independent.

Mr. Hubley Ashton's fee is 200 dollars, or about 41*l.* 2*s.*, which amount I have the honour to ask your Lordship's authority to pay him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 163.

Opinion of Mr. McPherson.

"HAS the United States' Government power, under the law, to stop a ship in the United States which it is satisfied is being equipped, or has been equipped, to cruize and commit hostilities, even though a war is not going on, and though it cannot be made to appear against what Power the ship is intended to commit hostilities?"

The power referred to in the question is possessed by the United States, with a single qualification; that is to say, that the hostilities referred to in the question are directed against a Power at peace with the United States.

The power possessed by this Government is given by the Act of the 20th April, 1818, re-enacted in the Revised Statutes, title 67, sections 5,281 to 5,291.

In construing that Act the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of the United States *v.* Quincy, 6 Peters, 466, said:—

"The Collectors are not authorized to detain vessels, although manifestly built for warlike purposes, and about to depart from the United States, unless circumstances shall render it probable that such vessels are intended to be employed by the owners to commit hostilities against some foreign Power at peace with the United States. All latitude, therefore, necessary for commercial purposes is given to our citizens, and they are restrained only from such acts as are calculated to involve the country in war."

To make a case, therefore, which would authorize the Government to stop a vessel, it must be shown that she is to be employed against a foreign Power with whom the United States are at peace.

If this fact could be shown without designating the foreign Power against which she is to be employed, the conditions of the Act would be fulfilled. It would, perhaps, be difficult to make such proof.

The 3rd section of the Act of 1818, Revised Statutes, section 5,283, prohibits the fitting out of any vessel with intent that such vessel shall be employed in the service of any foreign State to cruize against any foreign Power with whom the United States are at peace.

It has been held by the Attorney-General of the United States that the purchase of an armed vessel by a foreign Power then at war with a Power with whom the United States were at peace, was of itself evidence of an intent to use such vessel against such friendly Power. (See Mr. Reverdy Johnson's Opinion, of the 20th April, 1849; five Opinions of the Attorney-General, p. 92.)

If, therefore, the ship referred to in the question be equipped for a belligerent, the intent to violate the Act of 1818 would be inferred, and she could be stopped.

If, on the other hand, the vessel belongs wholly or in part to citizens of the United States, they could be compelled, under the 10th section of the Act, to give bond, conditioned that the vessel should not be employed against any Power at peace with the United States.

That the intent to employ the vessel against some foreign Power at peace with the United States is essential to the exercise of the power to stop, was held by Mr. Attorney-General Hoar, in the case of the gun-boats built for Spain to be used against the insurgents in Cuba. It was held that the Act of 1818 did not apply to the case, as the insurgents were not a people with whom the United States were at peace within the meaning of the Act.

(Signed) JNO. D. McPHERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 163.

Mr. Ashton to Sir E. Thornton.

Sir, *Washington, May 27, 1878.*

I HAVE had the honour to take into consideration the question which you submitted to me a few days ago for my opinion. It is as follows:—

"Has the United States' Government power under the law to stop a ship in the United States which it is satisfied is being equipped, or has been equipped, to cruize and commit hostilities, even though a war is not going on, and though it cannot be made to appear against what Power the ship is intended to commit hostilities?"

The inquiry relates to the power of the Executive Government of the United States to interfere, at a time when no war is going on, with a vessel which the Government is satisfied is being equipped in the territory and jurisdiction of the United States for the purpose of cruizing and committing hostilities in the service of a foreign State against some other Power in unity with the United States.

The first case supposed is that of a vessel which is undergoing preparations for hostile employment, but which is not ready to clear out of the port of the United States. Such preparations could be effectively put an end to only by a seizure of the vessel, which would result in the officers of the Government taking possession of the property, and thus stopping the completion of the preparations.

The second case embraced by the question is that of a vessel which has been equipped for hostile operations and is ready to sail from a port of the United States. In that case the vessel would be stopped either by a seizure of the property, or by the absolute or conditional refusal of a clearance by the officers of the Customs at the port from which she would propose to sail.

The time at which the question arises is a time when the Powers concerned are in their pacific relations to each other, and before the rights and duties pertaining to the *status* of belligerency and the *status* of neutrality have attached in the case.

The case, therefore, it strikes me, is not governed by the Treaty stipulations or by the general principles and rules of international law, which define the neutral duties and obligations of the United States to the Power against which the vessel may be supposed to intend to commit hostilities in the event of that Power becoming a belligerent.

If the Government has any power to interfere with the vessel or her movements at the time in question, the power must be derived either from some law of Congress or from the constitutional authority of the President to execute the law of nations by securing the due performance of an international obligation resting upon the United

States to prevent the equipment of such a vessel, or to prevent her from leaving the territory, after the completion of the equipment, at the time and under the circumstances indicated by the terms of the inquiry.

In reference to the question of neutral obligations and duties resting upon the United States, I suppose the principle is settled in the public law that, until a war actually exists between two or more nations, other nations are not charged with the special duties which attach to them under the law of nations or particular Treaties in their international character as neutrals.

Sir Travers Twiss makes the following observations in his volume on "The Rights and Duties of Nations in time of War:"—

"It has been observed that the right of hostilities as between two belligerent nations does not result from any formal declaration of war, but from the aggression of one nation upon the independence of the other. The obligation of neutrality, on the other hand, as between the respective belligerents and other nations, does not arise, except upon notification from one or other belligerent that he is at war with his adversary. A nation is bound to bring to the knowledge of other nations with which it is at amity the fact of its being obliged to take up arms to maintain its rights against another nation, so that they may take means to warn their citizens to observe the duties of neutrality.

"In the absence of any special Treaty arrangements on this subject, the general rule as regards belligerents seems to be this, that a state of war may exist between them without any declaration of war on either side. It may begin with mutual hostilities, and the legitimate consequences of war will ensue from the immediate commencement of such hostilities.

"But with regard to other nations, they are not charged with the duties of neutrality until a state of war has been officially announced to them, or until they have otherwise acquired a positive knowledge of its existence. War may exist notoriously, in which case it is not competent for a neutral Power to refuse to recognise its existence.

"On the other hand, if a third party is, *bonâ fide*, ignorant of the existence of a war between two other parties, there is no foundation in his case for the duties which the law of nations attaches to the neutral character, for he is unconscious that he has any occasion to act in that character." (Twiss, War, pp. 69, 77.)

Sir R. Phillimore says:—"The neutral is justly and happily designated by the Latin expression *in bello medius*." (3 Phill. .)

It would thus seem clear that the occasion for the application and enforcement of the rules of neutral duty as between the United States and Great Britain, prescribed by the Treaty of Washington, has not yet arisen; for, in the absence of a state of war between Great Britain and another Power, there is no foundation for the duties which the Treaty attaches to the neutral character of the United States when Her Majesty's Government becomes a belligerent.

We are next to inquire whether or not the Executive Government has the power, under or by virtue of any Act of Congress, at the present time, and under the existing status, to interfere with a vessel which is being prepared, or has been prepared, to cruise in the service of a foreign Government against a Power with which the United States are at peace, in the contingency of hostilities occurring between that Power and the nation for whose service the vessel is intended?

The only provisions of existing statute law bearing upon this subject are contained in Title 67 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which embodies the provisions of the celebrated Neutrality Act of April 20, 1818. (3 Statutes at large, 450.)

The 3rd section of that Act (now section 5,283 of the Revised Statutes) forbids the equipment within the United States of any vessel, with intent that such vessel shall be employed in the service of any foreign State, to cruise or commit hostilities against the subjects of any foreign State with whom the United States are at peace.

The terms of this enactment embrace cases of equipment by the officers or agents of a foreign State, as well as cases of equipment by private adventurers, intending to employ the ship in the service of a foreign State. Therefore, a ship actually belonging to a foreign State may be stopped by the executive, if she be equipped with the requisite intent.

The intent is the point on which the lawful or unlawful character of the equipment turns.

If any person do any act, or attempt to do any act, towards the preparation of a vessel for subsequent hostile operations, with the intent that the vessel shall be

employed in such hostile operations, he is amenable to the personal penalties prescribed by the Statute, and the vessel and materials are liable to seizure and forfeiture.

As to the character of the intent, it is settled in the jurisprudence of the United States, that it must be a fixed and present intent, that the vessel shall be employed in hostile operations.

The Supreme Court, in the leading case of the United States *v.* Quincy (6 Peters, 466) said, it is "necessary that the intention with respect to the employment of the vessel should be formed before she leaves the United States;" that it must be "a fixed intention, not conditional or contingent;" and that the intention "decides whether the adventure is of a commercial or warlike character." Mr. Dana, in his note on the Neutrality and Foreign Enlistment Acts, has stated the construction and effect of the Statute with great precision thus: "If there is a contingency it must, to exculpate the party, be one which forms a condition precedent to the intent, and not merely a condition precedent to the employment, or a condition subsequent which may defeat the intent." (Dana's Wheaton, p. 562.)

It follows that when a foreign State procures the equipment of a vessel within the limits of the United States, the intention of that State as to the employment of the vessel must be ascertained.

If the intention is to employ her in committing hostilities only upon the contingency of a future war, which may not happen at all, the proceeding is of a commercial character in view of the Statute, and it may be added of international law, with which the Statute is in this respect coextensive. In such case, therefore, both the municipal and public law seem to require that the vessel should be allowed to depart from the United States. But if the intention is to employ the ship, not contingently, but at all events in committing hostilities against a foreign State, with which the United States are at peace, the proceeding is of a warlike character, and it is the right of the United States and the duty of the President to stop her departure.

The rule of law is sufficiently plain, the difficulty lies in its application.

If at the time of the equipment war has been declared, or is notoriously carried on between the foreign State by which the equipment is procurable and a foreign State with which the United States are at peace, the intention to employ the ship in committing hostilities against the latter Power is ascertained conclusively by the *status* of the parties.

This point was elaborately discussed between the Governments of the German Empire and the United States in 1849, during the administration of President Taylor, in relation to the steamer called "United States," which was fitted out in the port of New York for the naval service of Germany during its contest with Denmark.

The diplomatic correspondence in relation to this transaction, and the opinion of Mr. Attorney-General Johnson, are of interest in connection with this general subject. They are contained in the volume entitled "Executive Documents," 1st Session, 31st Congress, vol. 3, Part 1, 1849-50. But the present inquiry relates to a time when no war is going on. It is necessary, therefore, to consider how it is to be ascertained, for the purposes of Government, that a foreign State has, in time of peace, a fixed intention to commit future hostilities.

The presumption that an existing is a continuing status is recognized by international as well as by the common law. It was upon that ground that the Government of the United States held in the case of the Spanish gun-boats, seized in New York in 1869, that war continued between Spain and Peru, although actual hostilities had ceased, and Spain contended that there was no war. And in the case of the German steamer just referred to it was held that war continued during the period of the armistice between Germany and Denmark.

I think the same presumption applies to the continuance of peace, and it appears to me, after careful reflection, that the United States are not at liberty under the principles of public law applicable to the subject, to determine, for purposes of State, the future intentions of a foreign Power with regard to war, and decide affirmatively that an existing peace will not endure. All that can be affirmed is that the Government, under whose orders the vessels are being fitted out, intends to employ them in cruizing against a Power in amity with the United States, in a certain contingency which has not occurred, and may never occur; and this negatives the idea of a present fixed intention to employ the vessels in such hostilities when they leave the territory of the United States.

The contingency, therefore, in which the vessels in question are to be employed in hostile operations, is one which forms a condition precedent to the intent; and, under the rule laid down, the case appears not to be within the 3rd Section of the

Act of 1818. It must not be supposed, from what has been said in regard to the case of vessels fitted out for the service of a recognized and established Government, that I believe the Statute cannot be applied except where there are independent parties to a contest entitled to equal rights, or that any of the reasoning tends to the conclusion that the Statute would be impotent in the case of hostilities carried on by insurgents or filibusters, having no recognized status either as a nation or belligerents, where the intention to employ vessels fitted out in the United States for hostile operations can be proved or inferred from the facts and circumstances of the case. In the case of vessels equipped for insurgents or filibusters, the parties have or may have a present intent, which may always be proved circumstantially, to use the ships in exciting revolt or carrying on hostile operations, and where such intent exists, the parties and property are brought within the penalties of the Statute. But, in the case of a regular and established Government, the status of peace continues until war exists, and until war is declared or actually exists, such an intention as the Statute requires to employ the vessels in hostile operations against a nation with whom the United States are at peace cannot be established.

The only other sections of the Act of 1818 which need to be considered are the 10th and 11th sections, which are embodied in Sections 5280 and 5290 respectively of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

The 10th Section provides as follows:—

"That the owners or consignees of every armed ship sailing out of the ports of the United States, belonging wholly or in part to citizens thereof, shall enter into bond to the United States, with sufficient sureties prior to clearing out the same in double the amount of the value of the vessel and cargo on board, including her armament, that the said ship shall not be employed by such owners to cruize or commit hostilities against the subjects, citizens, or property of any foreign State with whom the United States are at peace."

The 11th Section is as follows:—

"That the Collectors of the Customs be, and they are hereby authorized and required to detain any vessel manifestly built for warlike purposes, and about to depart from the United States, of which the cargo shall principally consist of arms and munitions of war, when the number of men shipped on board or other circumstances shall render it probable that such vessel is intended to be employed by the owner or owners to cruize or commit hostilities upon the subjects, citizens, or property of any foreign State with whom the United States are at peace until the decision of the President be had thereon, or until the owner or owners shall give such bond and security as is required of the owners of armed ships by the preceding section of this Act."

It is well known historically that the occasion for these enactments which were not contained in the first Neutrality Act of 1794, was the conduct of citizens of the United States in engaging in privateering enterprises during the revolutions and civil wars in South America, and that they were principally designed to meet that great evil. The French privateers, which gave the Government so much trouble in 1793, and on account of which President Washington, on the 22nd April, 1793, issued his celebrated proclamation of neutrality, were in general built abroad. Their commanders only claimed to enlarge their means of annoyance in the ports of the United States.

The same general considerations which have been presented in connection with the 3rd section are applicable in determining the question of the power of the Executive, in the existing condition of affairs, to afford a remedy under the authority conferred upon the Government by the 10th and 11th sections of the Statute.

My opinion is that the provisions of those sections, in the existing *status* of the Powers concerned, do not apply to the vessels in question. While my reflections have led me to this conclusion, I incline strongly to the opinion, that if war should occur between the Powers before the vessels leave the country, and I am correctly informed as to the character of the vessels, the Executive would have the right to detain them, at least until security should be given by their real owner that they should not be employed to cruize against any foreign Power with whom the United States are at peace.

The determination and action of the Government in requiring the German steamer above mentioned to enter into bond under the 11th section of the Act of 1818 appear to constitute a pertinent precedent. Before clearing out, the ship was required to be registered in the name of her actual owner, the German Empire.

A few observations upon the construction and effect of the 10th and 11th sections of the Act of 1818 may now be made, more especially with reference to the last suggestion I had the honour to submit.

The 10th section applies only to armed ships owned wholly or in part by citizens of the United States, and only to such ships proposing to sail during the existence of foreign, international, or other wars, in which the vessels might be employed to commit hostilities against a foreign State with whom the United States are at peace. The section does not authorize security to be required of the owners of armed ships belonging to the citizens of the United States proposing to sail at a time of peace between the nations of the world. As it is not the policy of nations to disallow the production and sale of armed ships by its citizens to other nations, so long as such transactions do not imperil or violate their international relations or duties, it is not admissible to construe the Statute as restraining such trade when these relations and duties cannot be interfered with. This rule of construction limits the application of the Statute to a time of war.

It may be added that a positive implication to this effect is held out by the provision relating to the bond to be taken. Its prescribed condition imports that the United States are at peace with some Power involved in war, or against whom actual hostilities are being carried on. The same remarks apply to the 11th section so far as the time for the enforcement of its provisions is concerned.

The construction and effect which I have thus attributed to those sections, are in accordance with what was said in regard to them by the Supreme Court in the leading case of United States *v.* Quincy (6 Peters, 445), the Court said, "All the latitude necessary for commercial purposes is given to our citizens, and they are restrained only from such acts as are calculated to involve the country in war." As before suggested, however, I think the vessels in question could be required to give security under the 11th section, if they should not sail until after war has been declared or actually exists.

The 11th section requires detention of a vessel of any ownership where the following circumstances are combined:—Construction adapted to warlike purposes. A cargo consisting principally of arms, &c. A crew, or other circumstances which render it probable that the ship is intended, &c. The 10th section applies to ships owned by citizens of the United States. The 11th section includes ships owned by foreigners, even by foreign States.

The 10th section applies to "armed" ships. The 11th section provides for the case of a vessel of the same kind of construction, but having arms in cargo. I apprehend the intention in both cases should be deemed the same, that is to cover the cases of ships which have the means of being applied to the commission of hostilities. A crew is not necessary in either case. The general test is, what kind of a ship is the vessel. In the case of a vessel not owned by citizens of the United States, it must appear that she probably will be employed in committing hostilities; and therefore the crew or other circumstances are to be considered. If the test is the capacity or adaptation of the ship herself to be employed in hostile uses, it is immaterial whether the arms are in the cargo, in the hold, at the port-holes, or on the deck of the vessel. If she is actually armed by reason of the arms being in their places, she is all the more within the mischiefs provided against.

In brief, and to conclude, I suppose that both the 10th and the 11th sections apply to armed ships, with the difference that an attempt at evasion by placing the arms in cargo shall be unavailing under the 11th section of the statute. The last question is, whether, independently of the provisions of the Neutrality Act, the President has the power to interfere with the vessels under consideration, or their movements, during the existing *status* of peace between the Powers? I have already indicated my opinion that he does not possess this power. The transactions in question are not in violation of the territorial sovereignty of the United States, under existing legislation, and they do not seem to be in violation of any international obligation or duty resting upon the United States toward any friendly Power, in the existing condition of affairs, under the fundamental principles of the established public law. The transactions are at present commercial in their character, and not in violation of the municipal law of the United States, or of the public law of nations, and therefore they cannot be restrained by the Executive Government.

The foregoing reasoning requires me to answer the question you have propounded to me in the negative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUBLEY ASHTON.

No. 164.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 321.)
Rome, June 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's despatch No. 223 of the 24th ultimo, recording a conversation in which the Italian Ambassador had inquired of your Lordship whether Her Majesty's Government entertained the project, attributed to them, of bringing about the union of Albania to Greece, adding that if such were the case he wished to draw your Lordship's attention to the injurious effect such a measure would have on the position of Italy in the Adriatic, and hinted that in such an event Italy would require compensation.

As General Menabrea's observations on this subject are entirely at variance with what I have hitherto understood to be the policy of the Italian Government in regard to Greece, I have thought it my duty to ask Count Corti if General Menabrea had spoken in virtue of any instructions he had received from Rome.

Count Corti replied that all he knew about the matter was that some such report as that alluded to by General Menabrea had, he believed, been mentioned by some Italian Consul in the East, he could not recollect which; that he presumed that a copy of the Consul's despatch may have been sent, in the course of official routine, to General Menabrea, but that his Excellency had certainly never been instructed to trouble your Lordship by bringing it under your notice.

The policy of the Italian Government, Count Corti said, was to endeavour to uphold and strengthen the power of Turkey as far as that was compatible with present circumstances, or, in other words, to secure for Turkey a condition of possible future independence, but that if there were to be a dismemberment of Turkey, so far from the Italian Government being jealous of any extension of territory which it might be desired to give to Greece, or having the intention of claiming compensation in consequence thereof, they would on the contrary do everything they could to make Greece as powerful as possible.

To suppose the reverse, his Excellency added, would be entirely to misapprehend not only the policy of the Government but the national feeling in Italy in favour of the Greeks.

These observations of Count Corti are in complete accordance with what I have always reported as to the views entertained in this country upon the matters in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 165.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 324.)
Rome, June 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I LOST no time after the receipt of your Lordship's telegram *en clair* of the 2nd instant, in acquainting Count Corti that Her Majesty's Government had accepted the invitation to the Congress at Berlin on the 13th instant, and that Lord Beaconsfield and your Lordship would attend.

On calling on Count Corti shortly afterwards, his Excellency informed me that he had just received a note from the German Ambassador inviting the Government of Italy, as one of the Signatories of the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, to take part in a Congress to be held at Berlin on the 13th of this month, and the note stated that in making this communication the Imperial Government wished those Powers to whom it was addressed to understand that the whole Treaty of San Stefano was to be placed before the Congress, and that each Power would have free and entire liberty to discuss every one of its articles.

Count Corti stated that this invitation would of course be accepted, that he should himself attend the Congress as First Plenipotentiary of Italy; that Count de Launay, the Italian Ambassador at Berlin, would be the second, and that he proposed setting out for Berlin on Sunday morning next the 9th instant.

Count Corti begged me to express the sincere pleasure with which he looked forward to again meeting your Lordship as well as Lord Beaconsfield, of whose kindness

to him while he was Secretary of Legation in London he wished me to say he entertained a very grateful recollection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 166.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 332. Most Confidential.)
Rome, June 5, 1878.

My Lord,

IT appearing to me desirable to have some conversation with the President of the Council relative to the instructions which may be given to the Italian Plenipotentiaries at the Congress in the possible case of an Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I wrote to ask his Excellency to give me an interview, and he appointed me for 7 o'clock this evening.

I have just returned from the Consulta, and have only a short time for an account of my conversation with M. Cairoli before the departure of the messenger.

I told his Excellency that I had requested to see him, as I presumed the Cabinet would be now considering the instructions for the guidance of the Representatives of Italy at the Congress, which is to meet at Berlin on the 13th instant; that on the general question of the settlement of affairs in the East I should not think it necessary to trouble him with any observations, for that, from what I knew of the policy and interests of Italy in Turkey, I held the conviction that there could be no divergence of views between our two countries on any material subject, and that Her Majesty's Government might, therefore, rely upon the support of the Government of Italy in their efforts to obtain such modifications in the Treaty of San Stefano as were absolutely necessary for the future existence of Turkey, for the balance of European power, and for equal justice and protection being secured to the various races and nationalities inhabiting the Ottoman dominions.

But, I said, there was one point on which I must frankly tell his Excellency that I did feel some anxiety and misgiving.

It was no secret, I continued, that there was a party in Italy which was extremely jealous of Austria. M. Depretis, and other members of the late Ministry, belonged to this party, and M. Depretis had frequently stated to me that the Italian Government could not tacitly admit an Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I had been told, I said, that he (M. Cairoli) and some of his colleagues shared the same views, and that in case the event to which I alluded took place, the Italian Government would either enter its protest and put forward a claim for compensation, or take some other measures, such as placing an army on its northern frontiers, in order to mark its resentment.

I trusted, I said, that I had been misinformed, and that his Excellency would be able to assure me that whatever might happen in regard to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austrian troops, the Italian Plenipotentiaries would in no case receive instructions which might disturb the relations between Italy and Austria.

I really did not know, I said, whether such an occupation was likely to take place or not, but if it did, no one could suppose that it could be undertaken with any other object than with that of counterbalancing Russia.

The Italian Government should therefore reflect before doing anything to thwart Austria, that they might be possibly placing themselves in opposition to England also, and in point of fact be openly siding with Russia. This, I felt confident, would be contrary to their wishes and intentions.

What advantages, I inquired, did the Italian Government expect to derive from entering a barren protest against the Austrian occupation of these provinces. It would be simply sowing the seeds of future complications between the two countries; while, if they took the more serious measure of placing troops on the northern frontier, and claiming compensation, it would certainly be followed by a declaration of war by Austria; a war in which Italy would stand alone.

If Italy wanted the Trentino, this was certainly not the moment to bring it forward.

I had had, I said, some conversation with my German colleague on this matter, and I was enabled to say that if Italy brought forward the Trentino question she would do so at her own risk and peril, for that Germany would not only not

support her, but would highly disapprove her taking any such course. Italy would, therefore, be risking the friendship of her firmest ally on the Continent.

The best course, therefore, for the Italian Government would be to take no notice of any Austrian movements, to inspire Austria with confidence by supporting the policy of Great Britain and Austria in the Congress, and a day might possibly come when friendly negotiations might be opened with the Austrian Government on the Trentino question. M. Cairoli interrupted me two or three times in the course of these observations. He admitted in the first place that on all material questions in the East there could be no difference of opinion between Her Majesty's Government and that of Italy, and that the Italian Government would be quite ready to support the efforts of Her Majesty's Government in the direction I had indicated.

With regard to the possible Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he made use of arguments which I have frequently heard before from his predecessor, namely, that an aggrandizement of Austria would create a considerable excitement in Italy, and he thought that if it was allowed to pass entirely unnoticed by the Italian Government, it might create for them great political difficulties at home. On this subject we had a discussion. M. Cairoli said, however, that the object of Italy was peace, and to avoid complications; but he could not give any pledge as to what the Government might do in certain eventualities without consulting his colleagues. He said once that they would certainly not go so far as to protest, or to make any counter demonstration, but he avoided repeating it, and I could not obtain his authority for saying that I might thoroughly reassure Her Majesty's Government. His Excellency did acknowledge, however, that this would not be an opportune moment for mooting the Trentino question.

M. Cairoli alluded also to the opposition raised by Austria to the cession of Antivari and Dulcigno to Montenegro, with the view, he presumed, of getting them herself.

I said this did not appear to me to be the necessary consequence, but if it did follow, I presumed Italy would rather they belonged to Austria than Russia.

M. Cairoli said he should not be afraid of Russia in the Adriatic. In this, I said, he was quite opposed to his predecessors.

I have only time to add that though I could obtain no distinct pledge from his Excellency, I cannot help thinking that my remarks made some impression upon him, and the effect will, of course, be increased if what I said is supported, as I have reason to believe it will be, by my German colleague.

I should mention, in conclusion, that M. Cairoli spoke in the most indignant terms respecting the conduct of Russia in forcing Roumania to give back Bessarabia.

He said it was an act which was repugnant and revolting to every one with the slightest sense of justice and morality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 107.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 108.) *Paris, June 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN answer to an interpellation brought forward in a friendly spirit by M. Léon Renault, M. Waddington made, in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, a declaration of the policy of the French Government with regard to the Eastern question in general, and to the Congress at Berlin in particular.

I had yesterday the honour to send to your Lordship by telegraph a summary of M. Waddington's speech; and I inclose herewith the authentic report of the proceedings, which is published this morning in the "Journal Officiel," and which gives the speech in full.

The objects of the policy of the French Government were declared by M. Waddington to be the promotion of peace among all the Powers of Europe; the maintenance in any event of the neutrality of France; and the exclusion from the deliberations of the Congress of all matters not arising directly out of the war between Russia and Turkey.

M. Waddington dwelt particularly on this last point.

With regard to the original invitation to a Congress received from Austria-Hungary in February last, he spoke as follows:—

"Nous avons donc accepté l'invitation sans retard et sans la moindre hésitation; seulement notre acceptation était subordonnée à cette double condition: d'abord que toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de 1856 seraient représentées au Congrès, et en second lieu, et c'était là le point important, qu'on ne discuterait au Congrès que des questions qui résultaient naturellement et directement de la dernière guerre (M. Gambetta: 'très-bien, très-bien'), que non-seulement il ne pourrait y être question d'affaires de l'Occident, dont au reste personne ne songeait à s'occuper en ce moment, mais que nous ne pouvions pas admettre qu'il y fût question des intérêts Orientaux qui n'avaient pas été touchés par les derniers événements. Pour préciser plus nettement notre pensée, nous avons dit, dès le début, dès le mois de Février dernier, que nous n'entendions pas qu'on pût soulever dans le Congrès la question de l'Egypte, ni celle du Liban, ni celle des Lieux-Saints. A notre avis, ces questions, n'étant pas soulevées par le Traité de San Stéfano, devaient rester absolument en dehors des travaux du Congrès, et, il faut bien le dire, si ces questions touchent par certains côtés aux intérêts traditionnels et au prestige de la France en Orient, notre principal motif, en les écartant, était de sauvegarder les intérêts généraux de l'Europe. (Très-bien!)

* * * * * *

"Nous avons donc été guidés dans ces réserves par les intérêts Français et par l'intérêt général de l'Europe. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

"Ces réserves ont été comprises et appréciées par les différentes Puissances; elles ont été acceptées par toutes sans exception."

Your Lordship will also find in the report of M. Waddington's speech the text of his answer to the invitation of the German Government to the Congress to be held on the 13th of this month, and you will not fail to observe in it the following passage:—

"Pour mieux préciser notre manière de voir, et convaincu d'ailleurs que le véritable intérêt de l'Europe est de restreindre le terrain des délibérations plutôt que de l'étendre, nous avons désigné nominativement l'Egypte, la Syrie et les Lieux Saints comme devant rester en dehors de la discussion."

On the motion of M. Renault, the following resolution was passed unanimously in a very full House, 495 votes being recorded in favour of it and not one against it:—

"La Chambre accepte avec une entière confiance les déclarations du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et, certaine que son action s'exercera en faveur de la paix, de la neutralité de la France et des intérêts généraux de l'Europe, passe à l'ordre du jour."

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of June 8, 1878.

M. le Président.—L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion de l'interpellation de M. Léon Renault et plusieurs de ses collègues, sur l'invitation adressée à la France par le Gouvernement Allemand d'assister au Congrès de Berlin et sur la réponse qui a été faite à cette invitation.

La parole est à M. Léon Renault.

M. Léon Renault.—Messieurs, je n'ai ni à développer ni à justifier longuement l'interpellation qu'au nom d'un grand nombre de mes amis et au mien, j'ai déposé hier sur le bureau de la Chambre. La Session du Parlement est sur le point de se terminer; d'ici quelques jours les mandataires du pays seront séparés et précisément au même instant les représentants des Grandes Puissances Européennes, appelés par le Gouvernement d'Allemagne, se réuniront à Berlin. La France a reçu une invitation d'assister à ce Congrès. Elle l'accepte. De graves intérêts seront agités par les Plénipotentiaires Européens; des questions seront discutées qui pourraient devenir redoutables si elles n'étaient envisagées et traitées dans un esprit humain, élevé et résolu de pacification.

Dans une telle occurrence, il nous a paru, à un grand nombre de mes collègues et à moi-même, que c'était pour nous un devoir de demander au Cabinet quels avaient été les termes de l'invitation qu'il avait reçue, dans quelles conditions il l'avait acceptée et enfin quelle politique la France pratiquerait et recommanderait dans le Congrès qui allait s'ouvrir à Berlin.

Nous avons d'ailleurs pensé qu'en adressant ces questions au Cabinet, nous ne faisions que répondre à un désir tout naturel et bien légitime de M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères; car, dans une de nos précédentes séances, l'Honorable M. Waddington a dit à la Chambre qu'avant sa séparation il lui exposerait quelle avait été la politique

pratiquée par le Cabinet du 14 Décembre dans ses relations avec les Puissances étrangères. Il a ajouté avec une sure connaissance de ce qu'avait été cette politique et de ce que sont ses sentiments, qu'elle nous apparaîtrait, le jour où elle serait définie à cette Tribune, comme s'étant toujours accordée avec les désirs et les vœux de la Chambre et du pays. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

La France veut la paix pour elle-même ; elle la souhaite pour toutes les autres Puissances de l'Europe. (Vives marques d'adhésion.) Elle est convaincue qu'une neutralité loyale est la garantie essentielle et la protection efficace des grands intérêts qui lui tiennent par dessus tout au cœur.

M. Gambetta et plusieurs autres Membres.—Très-bien! très-bien!

M. Louis Renault.—Je suis absolument persuadé que tout à l'heure, lorsque nous aurons entendu M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, nous serons plus convaincus encore, s'il est possible, que le Cabinet du 14 Décembre n'exercera l'action de la France qu'en faveur de la paix, qu'il ne l'engagera et ne la compromettra en aucune façon, et que la neutralité de la France sera absolument respectée et sauvegardée dans les délibérations et par les résolutions du Congrès qui va s'ouvrir. (Marques d'assentiment et applaudissements.)

M. le Président.—La parole est à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

M. Waddington, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.—Messieurs, la Chambre se souvient que le 9 Mai dernier, à la suite d'une question qui m'avait été adressée par l'honorable M. Ernoul, j'avais pris l'engagement d'exposer à la Chambre, avant la fin de la session, ce qu'avait été la conduite du Cabinet dans nos relations extérieures depuis son avènement au pouvoir. Je suis heureux aujourd'hui, heureux pour moi, heureux pour le Cabinet dont j'ai l'honneur de faire partie, de pouvoir tenir la promesse que j'ai faite le 9 Mai dernier.

Cette tâche, Messieurs, me sera d'autant plus facile, et j'aborde cette Tribune avec d'autant plus de confiance qu'après les paroles qui viennent de tomber de la bouche de l'honorable M. Renault, après les paroles qui ont été prononcées hier par l'honorable M. Tirolle, j'ai la conviction profonde que sur tous les bancs de cette Chambre, lorsqu'il s'agit des intérêts et de la dignité de la France, il n'y a qu'une seule voix et tous les cœurs battent à l'unisson. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

Messieurs, vous vous souvenez qu'au milieu de l'hiver dernier de graves événements s'étaient passés dans la Péninsule des Balkans. Après une longue et vaillante résistance, les troupes Ottomanes avaient dû capituler dans les lignes de Plevna, et au milieu de l'hiver, au moment où l'Europe s'attendait à une suspension des hostilités, l'armée Russe, au prix d'efforts héroïques, traversait la chaîne des Balkans et se répandait dans les plaines de la Roumélie.

A partir de ce moment, le sort de la guerre fut à peu près décidé. Une marche rapide amena bientôt les forces Russes à Adrianople, et, peu de temps après, elles étaient aux portes de Constantinople.

Il se produisit alors en Europe, et surtout en Angleterre, une grande émotion ; et, pendant quelque temps, on put craindre que l'agitation qui s'était manifestée et qui se manifestait encore dans ce pays, n'amenât un conflit direct entre lui et la Russie.

Quelle était alors la situation de la France, quel était le devoir du Gouvernement Français?

La France avait un intérêt capital au maintien de la paix. Elle se préparait à entreprendre de grands travaux pacifiques, à reconstituer son vaste réseau de chemins de fer, ses communications intérieures, elle allait reconstruire ses écoles, agrandir ses facultés, ses centres d'enseignement de toute espèce ; elle était résolue à imprimer à l'instruction à tous les degrés une impulsion vigoureuse ; elle était résolue à faire tous les sacrifices nécessaires pour la réalisation de ces grandes œuvres ; elle était au milieu de la réforme de ses institutions militaires ; elle était donc absorbée par une foule de travaux de longue haleine qui lui faisaient désirer au-dessus de tout le maintien de la paix, d'une paix durable et prolongée. En outre, il y avait cette année une cause particulière qui faisait souhaiter tout spécialement à la France la conservation de la paix générale, c'était l'œuvre de l'Exposition Universelle.

La France avait convié l'Europe entière à venir chez elle, et, pour que les nations pussent répondre à son appel, il importait que rien ne vînt inquiéter ni troubler les intérêts généraux de l'Europe.

C'est dans cette situation que nous nous sommes trouvés, lorsque nous avons dû donner notre avis sur les graves questions qui s'agitaient en Europe.

Dès le principe, le Gouvernement Français a adopté une ligne de conduite dont il ne s'est pas écarté depuis l'ouverture des négociations pour la réunion du Congrès ; le Gouvernement n'a jamais cessé de tenir le même langage amical à Londres et à

St. Pétersbourg, sonvillant simultanément aux deux Cabinets d'éviter tous les froissements d'amour-propre national, tout ce qui pouvait aggraver la situation et provoquer prématurément un conflit en Orient. Je suis heureux d'ajouter que nous avons été écoutés.

Un peu plus tard, Messieurs, au mois de Février dernier, le Gouvernement de l'Autriche-Hongrie prit l'initiative d'une invitation au Congrès. Cette invitation fut immédiatement acceptée par nous, et notre acceptation était la conséquence naturelle de l'ordre d'idées dans lequel nous nous étions placés, au point de vue des intérêts manifestes de la France.

Il était évident que, pour assurer à l'Europe le bienfait de la paix, un Congrès était un des moyens les plus efficaces et que, quand même il ne devrait pas atteindre le but, il était absolument nécessaire de l'essayer.

Nous avons donc accepté l'invitation sans retard et sans la moindre hésitation ; seulement notre acceptation était subordonnée à cette double condition : d'abord que toutes les Puissances signataires du Traité de 1856 seraient représentées au Congrès, et en second lieu,—et c'était là le point important,—qu'on ne discuterait au Congrès que des questions qui résultaient naturellement et directement de la dernière guerre.

M. Gambetta.—Très-bien! très-bien!

M. le Ministre.—Que non-seulement il ne pourrait y être question d'affaires de l'Occident, dont au reste personne ne songeait à s'occuper en ce moment, mais que nous ne pouvions pas admettre qu'il y fût question des intérêts Orientaux qui n'avaient pas été touchés par les derniers événements. Pour préciser plus nettement notre pensée, nous avons dit, dès le début, dès le mois de Février dernier, que nous n'entendions pas qu'on pût soulever dans le Congrès la question de l'Egypte, ni celle du Liban, ni celle des Lieux-Saints. A notre avis, ces questions, n'étant pas soulevées par le Traité de San Stefano, devaient rester absolument en dehors des travaux du Congrès, et, il faut bien le dire, si ces questions touchent par certains côtés aux intérêts traditionnels et au prestige de la France en Orient, notre principal motif, en les écartant, était de sauvegarder les intérêts généraux de l'Europe. (Très-bien!)

Car il y avait un très-grand intérêt, au moment d'aborder un problème aussi complexe, aussi difficile que celui de l'établissement d'un état de choses quelque peu durable dans la Péninsule des Balkans, il était, disje, de la plus grande importance d'écarter tout ce qu'il était possible, de laisser de côté, et, loin de laisser s'élargir le champ des délibérations, de le restreindre dès le début, autant qu'il dépendait de nous.

Nous avons donc été guidés dans ces réserves par les intérêts Français et par l'intérêt général de l'Europe. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

Ces réserves ont été comprises et appréciées par les différentes Puissances ; elles ont été acceptées par toutes sans exception.

Outre son intérêt évident et son désir de la paix, la France avait une autre raison d'accepter immédiatement l'appel à siéger au Congrès.

Nous ne pouvions pas oublier que les Traités de 1856 et de 1871 avaient été revêtus de la signature de la France, et il nous était impossible d'admettre que ces Traités pussent être modifiés valablement ou mis de côté sans l'assentiment de toutes les Puissances qui les avaient signés. (Très-bien! très bien!)

Voilà, Messieurs, les raisons d'ordre intérieur, de politique étrangère, d'équilibre général Européen et de respect des Traités qui ont déterminé, dès le principe, le Gouvernement Français à accepter l'invitation qui lui était adressée. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

Et nous avons été tellement fidèles à cette politique et à cette ligne de conduite que, bien que nous ayons été plusieurs fois invités à exprimer notre opinion sur tel ou tel point du Traité de San Stéfano, nous nous y sommes toujours refusés, par cette raison que c'était là l'œuvre d'un Congrès, et que, tant que tout espoir de la réunion d'un Congrès ne serait pas perdu, la France ne voulait se prononcer qu'en présence des autres signataires des Traités de 1856. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

Les négociations pour l'ouverture d'un Congrès ont passé par différentes phases qu'il serait inutile de rappeler aujourd'hui, car elles n'ont qu'un intérêt purement rétrospectif. Après avoir été commencées sur l'initiative du Gouvernement de l'Autriche-Hongrie, elles ont été, dans les derniers temps, prises en main par le Cabinet de Berlin, et c'est grâce à son intervention en faveur de la paix, je suis heureux de le dire, qu'elles ont finalement abouti.

Quant aux questions secondaires, elles ont été nombreuses : question de savoir dans quel lieu se tiendrait le Congrès ; question relative à la composition du Congrès ; question de savoir si la réunion serait une Simple Conférence d'Ambassadeurs ou une réunion plus solennelle à laquelle prendraient part les Ministres des Affaires Etrangères

ou les Ministres dirigeants des différents pays. Sur toutes ces questions, nous nous sommes montrés pour ainsi dire indifférents, non pas qu'elles fussent dépourvues de tout intérêt, mais elles nous paraissaient insignifiantes en raison de cet intérêt capital de la réunion même d'un Congrès, comme moyen de conserver la paix.

Finalement, Messieurs, après beaucoup de difficultés de détail, on a pu arriver à un accord entre les Cabinets de Vienne, de St. Pétersbourg et de Londres sur la formule d'invitation à adresser aux Puissances par le Gouvernement de Berlin. Le Gouvernement Français a reçu, il y a huit jours, cette invitation, dont je vais avoir l'honneur de lire le texte à la Chambre:—

"*Paris, le* 3 *Juin*, 1878.

"Le soussigné, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, a l'honneur, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, de porter à la connaissance de son Excellence M. Waddington, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, la communication suivante:

"En conformité avec l'initiative prise par le Cabinet Austro-Hongrois, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne a l'honneur de proposer aux Puissances Signataires des Traités de 1856 et 1871, de vouloir bien se réunir en Congrès, à Berlin, pour y discuter les stipulations du Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano, conclu entre la Russie et la Turquie.

"Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, en faisant cette invitation au Gouvernement de la République Française, entend qu'en l'acceptant le Gouvernement Français consent à admettre la libre discussion de la totalité du contenu du Traité de San Stéfano et qu'il est prêt à y participer.

"Pour le cas de l'assentiment de toutes les Puissances invitées, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté propose de fixer la réunion du Congrès au 13 Juin prochain.

"Le soussigné, en portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de son Excellence M. Waddington, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a l'honneur de la prier de vouloir bien lui faire connaître, le plus tôt possible, la réponse du Gouvernement de la République Française.

"Le soussigné profite de cette occasion pour réitérer à son Excellence M. Waddington l'assurance de sa très-haute considération.

(Signé) "Hohenlohe."

Ainsi, vous le voyez, messieurs, après de longues négociations, la politique du concert Européen, du respect des Traités avait finalement prévalu en Europe; c'était le Traité de San Stéfano tout entier, sans restriction, qui était soumis aux délibérations du Congrès; c'était la politique que nous avions toujours donné notre assentiment; celle qui répondait aux véritables intérêts de la France. (Approbation.)

Voici maintenant la réponse du Gouvernement Français:—

"*Paris, le* 4 *Juin*, 1878.

"M. l'Ambassadeur,

"Votre Altesse a bien voulu me transmettre, par une note en date d'hier, la communication que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, conformément à l'initiative prise par le Cabinet Austro-Hongrois, adresse aux Puissances signataires des Traités de 1856 et de 1871, pour leur proposer de se réunir à Berlin, en Congrès, afin d'y discuter les stipulations du Traité Préliminaire conclu à San Stefano entre la Russie et la Turquie. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ajoute qu'il entend qu'en acceptant cette invitation, nous consentons à la libre discussion de la totalité du Traité de San Stefano, et que nous sommes prêts à y participer.

"J'ai rendu compte de cette communication à M. le Président de la République, en conseil, et je suis autorisé à faire connaître sans retard à votre Altesse la résolution du Gouvernement Français.

"Le Cabinet de Berlin sait que, dès le moment où il a été question, pour la première fois, de la réunion d'une Conférence ou d'un Congrès, nous n'avons pas hésité à promettre le concours de la France. Nous désirons faciliter, autant qu'il pouvait dépendre de nous, le rétablissement de la paix entre la Russie et la Porte Ottomane, ainsi que le maintien de la bonne harmonie entre les Puissances. Nous nous sommes bornés à mettre pour conditions à notre acceptation que les questions dérivant naturellement et directement de la dernière guerre, seraient seules déférées au Congrès, et que le programme de cette assemblée resterait circonscrit aux affaires qui ont été l'origine ou la suite immédiate de la lutte dont le Traité de San Stefano a marqué le terme. (Très-bien!)

"Pour mieux préciser notre manière de voir, et convaincus d'ailleurs que le véritable intérêt de l'Europe est de restreindre le terrain des délibérations plutôt que de l'étendre,

nous avons désigné nominativement l'Egypte, la Syrie, et les Lieux Saints comme devant rester en dehors de la discussion.

"En assignant pour objet spécial et déterminé aux travaux des Plénipotentiaires les clauses du Traité de San Stefano, la proposition du Cabinet de Berlin définit et limite la mission qui leur est confiée, de manière à donner pleine satisfaction à la pensée qui nous avait dicté ces réserves. Le Gouvernement de la République Française accepte donc l'invitation que votre Altesse a été chargée de me transmettre, et il n'a aucune objection contre la date du 13 Juin, indiquée pour la réunion du Congrès." (Très-bien! très-bien!)

Assurément, messieurs, le Congrès a une tâche délicate et difficile à remplir; mais si, comme je vous le disais le 9 Mai dernier, j'avais alors l'espoir fondé de voir la paix se maintenir, je puis dire aujourd'hui que cette espérance est devenue presque une certitude. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

Messieurs, l'exposé que je viens de faire montre clairement quelle a été la politique suivie par le Gouvernement depuis cinq mois: l'honneur, la dignité, les intérêts de la France ont été constamment sauvegardés. Nous n'avons agi qu'en faveur de la paix, de la neutralité de la France, du respect des Traités, de la défense des grands intérêts de l'Europe. Je vous le disais le 9 Mai, et j'espère, messieurs, vous l'avoir prouvé aujourd'hui. (Marques d'approbation.)

La France ira donc au Congrès, non pas indifférente, parce qu'elle ne saurait se montrer indifférente à aucun des grands intérêts de l'Europe, mais elle y ira avec l'autorité que donne l'absence de toute convoitise; elle y ira avec un désir sincère de travailler au maintien de la paix, avec la ferme volonté de conserver sa neutralité, et avec un sentiment profond du droit publique de l'Europe. (Nouvelles marques d'approbation.)

En y allant, elle se souviendra aussi qu'il y a d'autres Chrétiens que les Bulgares dans la péninsule des Balkans (très-bien! tres-bien!), qu'il y a d'autres races qui méritent au moins au même degré l'intérêt de l'Europe. (Très-bien! très-bien!)

Voilà, messieurs, ce que j'avais à dire à la Chambre. J'espère qu'elle reconnaîtra que j'ai tenu les promesses que j'ai faites il y a un mois. (Oui! oui! Très-bien! très-bien!)

Et maintenant j'espère qu'elle approuvera la politique suivie par le Gouvernement, et qu'au moment où son premier Plénipotentiaire va se rendre à Berlin, elle lui donnera l'appui et l'encouragement nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de sa lourde tache, et pour qu'il puisse porter sans faiblir la grande responsabilité qui va lui incomber.

J'espère, messieurs, que la Chambre, sans distinction de partis, s'inspirant purement et simplement des intérêts de la France, qui sont toujours les mêmes à l'étranger, voudra bien me donner par son vote et par son approbation l'autorité et la force dont j'ai besoin. (Vifs applaudissements sur tous les bancs.)

M. Léon Renault.—Messieurs, à la suite des déclarations si patriotiques, si nettes, et si loyales de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, je crois répondre au sentiment unanime de la Chambre, en déposant le projet d'ordre du jour dont je vais lui donner lecture:—

"La Chambre accepte avec une entière confiance les déclarations du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et, certaine que son action s'exercera en faveur de la paix, de la neutralité de la France, et des intérêts généraux de l'Europe, passe à l'ordre du jour." (Très-bien! très-bien! et applaudissements nombreux.)

M. Ernest Dréolle.—Je demande la parole.

M. le Président.—Vous avez la parole.

M. Ernest Dréolle.—Messieurs, autour d'une interpellation à laquelle M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a également répondu, mes amis me chargent de venir dire que nous acceptons l'ordre du jour qui vient de vous être présenté; convaincus, nous aussi, que la politique de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sera favorable à la paix et conforme aux traditions de la France. (Marques générales d'approbation et applaudissements.)

M. le Président.—Je mets aux voix l'ordre du jour motivé proposé par M. Léon Renault.

Il a été déposé une demande de scrutin.

Cette demande est signée par MM. Varambon, Gambetta, Clémenceau, Georges Perin, Greppo, Lockroy, Jacques, Gastu, Brisson, J. Guyot, Chavassieu, Darou, Proust, Farey, Thomson, Leconte, Frogier de Poulevoy, Viette, Ferry, Lesguillon, Deschanel, Billy.

Il va être procédé au scrutin.

(Le scrutin est ouvert et les votes sont recueillis. MM. les Secrétaires en opèrent le dépouillement.)

M. le Président.—Voici le résultat du scrutin :—

Nombre des votants	485
Majorité absolue	243
Pour l'adoption	485
Contre	0

La Chambre a adopté.

(La proclamation du résultat du scrutin est accueillie par des applaudissements dans toutes les parties de l'Assemblée.)

No. 168.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 469.) *Paris, June 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 468 of to-day, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, apart from the rest of M. Waddington's speech, the text of the invitation received by the French Government to the Congress at Berlin, and of the answer made to it by M. Waddington, as read by his Excellency in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of June 8, 1878.

[This is embodied in Inclosure in No. 167, *ante*.]

No. 169.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 9.)

(Confidential.) *Admiralty, June 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Commerell, dated 26th ultimo, No. 331, with remarks thereon by Admiral Hornby, relative to field batteries of artillery being sent to Bulaïr to arm the new outworks at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

"Agincourt," at Gallipoli, May 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to point out that it is absolutely necessary that at least five field batteries of artillery should be sent to Bulaïr to arm the new outworks of the lines, which are now nearly completed. At present there is not a single gun in any of them; and I need not point out that without guns these outworks are rather an element of weakness than of strength, nor that if their armament does not arrive they will have to be destroyed.

2. I am informed that 20,000 troops are now on their way from Volo to Constantinople, and I would beg leave to suggest that the artillery belonging to this corps d'armée should be kept at Bulaïr.

3. For about 1,000*l.* the horses required for these guns could be purchased on the Peninsula, but Osman Nouri Pasha has neither money to buy the animals nor harness to equip them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

"Alexandra," at Ismid, May 28, 1878.

Forwarded for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. I have forwarded a copy of Rear-Admiral Commerell's letter to Her Majesty's Ambassador with a view to his communicating the same to the Porte, but as I am aware the Turks are using all their available guns for the defence of Constantinople, I do not think it possible they could furnish these, and therefore suggest the field batteries required be ordered to be kept in readiness at Malta.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 170.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 135.) *St. Petersburgh, June 9, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF leaves this evening, and Prince Gortchakow to-morrow morning for Berlin.

No. 171.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 9, 1868.*

AM. starting for Berlin. Have left Mr. Francesco Summa in charge of Consulate. Have received reassuring telegrams from Prince Nicholas; and I hope interview between Hussein Pasha and Montenegrin Voivode will lead to satisfactory arrangement.

No. 172.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1878.*

I HAVE authorized Kirby Green to go to Berlin to furnish information.

No. 173.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1878.*

WITH reference to the interview which I had yesterday with your Excellency respecting the proposal of the Porte, that an addition should be made to the Customs in order to meet expenses connected with the refugees, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports by telegraph that, in consequence of the refusal of several of the Powers to agree to the proposal, the matter appears to have fallen through.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 174.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 48. Political.)
Cettigné, May 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Prince Nicholas did me the honour of receiving me this morning, and that His Highness referred to the military movements of Hussein Pasha. This gave me an opportunity of explaining, at the Pasha's request, that his Excellency had, on his side, been unable to reconcile the friendly messages lately sent to him with His Highness' apparent preparations for hostilities.

Hereupon an assurance was given to me, as Her Majesty's Consul, by Prince Nicholas, to the effect that, on his pledged word of honour, His Highness would permit, even if war should be unfortunately renewed, no hostile operations to be undertaken by his troops until the Turkish Commander had had fifteen days' notice that operations were about to be recommenced. The Prince desired me to telegraph this assurance to Hussein Pasha, and, at the same time, said he trusted his Excellency would give a similar promise.

I hope, by having ventured to telegraph the foregoing to Hussein Pasha, I shall not incur your Lordship's censure.

I have observed no preparations in Montenegro for the recommencement of hostilities; on the contrary, I believe considerable disinclination exists for their resumption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 175.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 49. Political.)
Scutari, May 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I returned here last night from Cettigné.

Prince Nicholas and Hussein Pasha have both thanked me for having been the means of ending a misapprehension which was rapidly leading them towards a state of things which would, without fail, have terminated in collisions, and there can be no doubt that my arrival in Montenegro was, in this respect, most fortunate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 176.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 50. Political.)
Scutari, May 24, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch Political, No. 49, of this day's date, it is perhaps necessary that I should explain that it is possible an inclination may not be entirely foreign in some Turkish quarters to prevent the smooth progress of affairs.

Several Christian inhabitants of Podgoritza have been imprisoned for alleged Montenegrin sympathies, and matters which it had been found prudent to leave untouched since the conclusion of the armistice are now being once more brought into prominence.

I have obtained an assurance from Hussein Pasha that he will refrain from any action except under instructions from Constantinople; and although I have full confidence in his Excellency's promise, still, if it is wished to preclude the possibility of unforeseen occurrences, it would not be inexpedient for the Porte to convey unmistakably its wishes to the Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 177.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 55. Political.)
Scutari, May 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a Mahommedan Committee of Public Safety, which has existed for some time past at Podgoritza, has shown great activity in watching the movements and actions of its Christian fellow-townsmen, and punishing them for any leanings they may evince towards Montenegro.

During the last few days the Orthodox Slav Priest and seventeen of the most wealthy Christians of Podgoritza, have been forwarded to Scutari for imprisonment or exile on the ground that they have visited Montenegro or had intercourse with Montenegrins.

I have, in a friendly way, reminded Hussein Pasha that commercial relations have been resumed with the Principality by his permission, and that he ought, perhaps, to be somewhat indulgent to people who are tempted to seek the goodwill of those whom they believe, through the existence of a Treaty, are about to become their masters.

His Excellency has assured me that nothing serious will happen to the imprisoned men. However, these arrests have created a very painful impression in Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 178.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 57. Political.)
Scutari, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed in confidence by a person in Montenegro that M. Sauerwald, the Acting Austro-Hungarian Agent at Cettigné, has been misled, for ends of their own, by the authorities there, into believing that during my recent visit I came to an important understanding with Prince Nicholas, and that my appearance in Montenegro was connected with other urgent affairs.

My telegram of the 20th May contained a recital of the only matter settled between the Prince and me, and in my Political despatch No. 52 of the 24th, I have conveyed to your Lordship, at the Prince's wish, a message concerning His Highness' permanent possession of Antivari and the sea-board now occupied by his forces.

Prince Nicholas is ready to offer every security which may be called for on this subject by Great Britain; as, for instance, consenting to limit the number of his ships of war, accepting the neutralization of Montenegrin waters, or placing his Principality under European or English protection.

In a private letter to Mr. Currie, I have mentioned having gathered at Cettigné that, in the case of a renewal of hostilities, the Prince might not be altogether indisposed to break away from the ties by which he is now bound.

I would humbly propose, if the above is considered of any value, that I should be instructed, in order to give your Lordship verbal explanations, to proceed home as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 179.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 58. Political.)
Scutari, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

HAVING observed in a newspaper that the Porte had addressed representations to the Russian Ambassador concerning the ill-treatment of the Turkish prisoners in

Montenegro, of which it had been informed by the Vali of Scutari, I have the honour to state that on the 10th ultimo three of these prisoners, a captain, a lieutenant, and a sergeant, belonging to the Redif battalion of Duneah, near Damascus, reached Scutari, having succeeded in effecting their escape from Antivari.

The captain was sent to me by Hussein Pasha to give me an account of the hardships suffered by the prisoners in Montenegro, in order that I might ask M. Duby, who happened to be then in Scutari, to bring the matter under Prince Nicholas' notice.

I repeated to M. Duby the captain's story, which was to the effect that he and his companions had been forced to risk the dangers of an escape, owing to their having been deprived of most of their clothing, having an insufficiency of food, and being obliged to transport on their backs ammunition from the magazines of Antivari to Vir Bazaar, on the shores of Lake Scutari, a distance of upwards of a day's journey.

M. Duby assured me that the Prince personally did all in his power to secure proper treatment for his prisoners, and that he was sure His Highness would at once cause an investigation to be made into the present complaint.

A few days afterwards the lieutenant who had escaped came to see me, and I then elicited from him that the insufficiency of food supplied by the prisoners arose from the fact that the prisoners refused to eat pork, and that their captors had no other meat to offer them. He confirmed the statement that the prisoners were employed on all military fatigue work, such as erecting fortifications and transporting ammunition; but he said that the Montenegrins were evidently not displeased when prisoners escaped. Nearly all those of Albanian nationality had therefore disappeared, and the remainder, being mostly Syrians and strangers in this country, preferred waiting for the complete conclusion of peace to release them.

After M. Duby's return to Cettigné, the Prince ordered that all the invalid prisoners should be returned to the Turks, and ninety-five were so delivered on the 19th. Many of these men were in a very feeble condition, as they were suffering from scurvy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 180.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 10.*)

(No. 43. Political.)

Beyrout, May 25, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosure which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the state of affairs in the district of Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Beyrout, May 25, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further report which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice Consul Blanche, relative to the state of affairs in the district of Tripoli.

I do not forward the inclosure mentioned in Mr. Blanche's report, as the sense of it is embodied in that report with much greater clearness and force than in the original document.

I venture to suggest to your Excellency the expediency of urging the Ottoman Government to take such steps as may be necessary to put a stop to the state of anarchy which prevails in the part of the country in question, and to take into consideration the testimony of Mr. Blanche in favour of Mohamed Bek-el-Mohamed,

which can easily be verified by a reference to such of the former Mutessarifs of Tripoli, mentioned by that gentleman, as may be at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général,

Tripoli, le 21 Mai, 1878.

DEPUIS les actes de désordre que je vous ai signalés dans mon rapport du 9 Avril, et grâce aux mesures prises par l'autorité, la tranquillité est revenue dans nos environs, et n'a plus été sérieusement troublée. Parmi ces mesures la plus efficace a été, sans aucun doute, la destitution de l'ancien Caïmacam d'Akkar et son remplacement provisoire par Mohammed Beik-el-Mohammed, l'homme le plus influent du district, le plus considéré parmi les siens, et qui possède à un haut degré la confiance de la population Chrétienne. A peine entré dans ses fonctions, il procéda à des nombreuses arrestations. Il n'en fallut pas davantage pour couper court au désordre. Les Chrétiens respirèrent et conçurent l'espoir que le Gouvernement encouragerait Mohammed Beik dans cette voie de répression, qui seule pouvait rendre la sécurité au pays. Malheureusement cet espérance ne s'est pas réalisée. Le Caïmacam suspendu d'Akkar vient d'être nommé au Hosson, et le Caïmacam du Hosson prend sa place à Akkar. Il y a donc une simple permutation entr'eux, et par le fait les choses sont rétablies dans leur premier état. Les deux fonctionnaires, dont l'incapacité notoire a laissé prendre au désordre de si grandes proportions, restent dans les deux districts les plus troublés du pays.

Les Chrétiens d'Akkar, émus par cette déception inattendue, retombent dans les inquiétudes, dont ils commençaient à peine à sortir. Ils ont fait part de leurs appréhensions à l'autorité, à leurs chefs religieux respectifs. Ils viennent également de m'adresser une requête, que j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-inclus. Ils persistent à penser que Mohammed Beik a seul la volonté et le pouvoir de tenir leurs ennemis en respect, et mon opinion personnelle est que cette confiance est méritée. Je connais Mohammed Beik depuis longues années, et il est certain que dans la partie d'Akkar où il réside—dans le canton appelé le Kaité—et sur les terrains limitrophes, là où domine son influence, les Chrétiens vivent dans la plus parfaite sécurité; jamais il n'en est sorti une plainte pendant ces temps de trouble que nous traversons. Mais il semble qu'il y ait comme un parti pris à Damas ou à Constantinople de le tenir éloigné des affaires.

Depuis plus de trois ans les Moutessarifs qui se sont succédés à Tripoli ont tous été d'avis que cet homme devait être nommé dans ce district difficile, qui est comme un foyer d'où dépend l'ordre et le désordre dans les districts voisins. Ibrahim Pacha m'a plus d'une fois fait part de ses désirs à cet égard; Chakir Beik a presque compromis sa position par la persévérance avec laquelle il a demandé la nomination de Mohammed Beik. Maintes fois il m'a prié de le seconder dans ses démarches en vous recommandant cette nomination; puis Aziz Pacha a agi dans le même sens. C'est lui qui a suspendu l'ex-Caïmacam, et mis Mohammed Beik à sa place, espérant bien obtenir une nomination définitive. Enfin Rafik Bey, le gérant actuel, m'a exprimé la même opinion favorable, les mêmes désirs. Il a paru vivement regretter la mesure qui défait l'œuvre de son prédécesseur; et je n'ai aucune raison de croire qu'il manque de sincérité. Après la rédaction de ce rapport, et au dernier moment, on me rappelle qu'avant Ibrahim Pacha, Hakki Pacha avait donné sa démission de Moutessarif parce qu'on lui avait destitué Mohammed Beik, qu'il avait fait nommer Caïmacam à Akkar. Mohammed Beik a donc pour lui des suffrages qui ne peuvent être suspects au Gouvernement. Il n'est pas la créature d'une influence étrangère. D'où vient cependant l'opposition qu'il rencontre?

Il faut certainement l'attribuer à l'état désordonné où se trouvent les esprits Musulmans, en ville et dans toute la province, par suite des événements politiques. Il y a ceux que la passion aveugle, et qui ont pour agréable et légitime les violences exercées contre les Chrétiens; et il y a les prudents qui reprouvent les vengeances. Bien que ce partage des esprits soit occulte et peu tranché dans les apparences extérieures, on peut dire cependant qu'il y a parmi eux un parti qu'ils flétrissent du nom de Chrétien, et un parti anti-Chrétien; ou pour parler plus exactement, il y a, comme partout où les passions s'agitent, un parti de l'ordre et un parti du désordre.

Mohammed Beik s'est posé résolument comme partisan de l'ordre, et il a contre lui tous les ardents du parti opposé, en ville aussi bien que dans la province. Il a été dénoncé, attaqué à Damas, et il est manifeste que ses adversaires ont prévalu ; c'est le mauvais parti qui l'emporte, et ces appréhensions des Chrétiens ne sont que trop fondés.

Quoiqu'il en soit, Mohammed Beik vient d'envoyer à Tripoli dix bandits coupables des crimes commis à Hzair et ailleurs; et il doit être actuellement rentré chez lui, laissant un nouveau titulaire une lourde tâche qui, selon toute probabilité, ne sera pas achevée.

Les affaires du district de Djeblé paraissent être toujours dans le même état. Toutefois je n'en ai plus eu de nouvelles positives.

Le Jeudi 10 courant, nous avons eu à Tripoli un bâtiment de guerre Ottoman qui a embarqué les conscrits du dernier tirage. Il y en avait environ 200, y compris ceux de Hama et de Homs.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

No. 181.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 581.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Proclamation (as published by the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg") by Prince Doudoukow Korsakoff, on his appointment as Russian Commissary for the temporary administration of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{May 31}}{\text{June 12}}$, 1878.

LE "Nouveau Temps" dit avoir sous les yeux un exemplaire de la proclamation du Général Prince Doudoukow-Korsakow, qui a été imprimée en Bulgarie. En voici la traduction :

"Par la volonté suprême de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies et aux termes du Traité conclu avec la Porte à San-Stefano le 19 Février, 1878, je suis nommé Commissaire de Sa Majesté pour l'administration temporaire de la Bulgarie. Ayant pris maintenant possession de ce poste élevé, j'en informe toutes les administrations sous mes ordres, ainsi que les habitants de la Bulgarie libérée. Me consacrant entièrement à la poursuite des buts élevés qui m'ont été tracés par la volonté Souveraine de mon Empereur, j'emploierai tous mes soins et appliquerai tous mes efforts à faire appel à toutes les forces du pays pour y établir le plus tôt possible une Administration Nationale Bulgare sur les bases d'un self-government répondant aux besoins d'un peuple qui vient d'être rappelé à la vie.

"L'administration temporaire et la présence d'autorités civiles Russes dans le pays ont avant tout pour but de garantir l'ordre et la sécurité de chacun, sans distinction de nationalité ni de religion. Dans ce but, les autorités civiles en général doivent éviter toute espèce d'arbitraire à l'égard des personnes et des propriétés des habitants de toutes les nationalités. Le Tribunal, formé de juges élus, doit oublier les anciens différends, l'antagonisme entre les nationalités, et démontrer par l'impartialité de ses sentences que le pays est capable de jouir d'une nouvelle vie libre et de se gouverner par lui-même, dans la plus large acception du terme.

"C'est en frère que j'en appelle à toutes les forces vives du pays pour qu'elles prêtent leur concours à l'administration temporaire Russe dans l'accomplissement de la mission qui lui est tracée. Plus ce concours sera actif et fructueux et plus tôt viendra l'époque où les fonctionnaires venus temporairement de Russie pourront être remplacés par des Bulgares et où les notables de la Bulgarie pourront être convoqués afin d'élaborer les statuts d'un nouveau Gouvernement et procéder à l'élection d'une Prince.

"Tous les fonctionnaires appelés de Russie doivent constamment avoir ce résultat final en vue. Je compte sur le concours éclairé, sincère et général de tous ces

fonctionnaires pour pouvoir réaliser promptement et en entier la tâche dont j'ai été honoré par la confiance de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, tâche qui consiste à rappeler à une nouvelle vie indépendante un pays dont la liberté a été achetée si chèrement au prix du sang des braves troupes Russes.

"J'espère que la Bulgarie se montrera digne de ces sacrifices. Que Dieu nous aide et nous soutienne dans l'accomplissement de la sainte mission qui nous incombe, par la volonté Souveraine du Tsar-Libérateur.

"Le Commissaire Impérial Russe,
Aide-de-camp Général,
(Signé) "Prince DOUDOUKOW-KORSAKOW."

No. 182.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 589.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an article, evidently of official origin (for the translation of which I am indebted to Mr. Michell) on the present position, in regard to the East, of England and Russia.

This article is written in a pacific and conciliatory tone, and offers a strong contrast with the language and arguments hitherto used by the same journal. It is evidently the wish and object of the writer to prepare the Russian public for the concessions which Russia must make in order to secure peace.

This article analyses the policy pursued by England since the commencement of the Eastern complication.

It assumes that the primary object of English policy has been to regain her prestige in Europe, which, it asserts, had of late been on the wane, and to restore her influence in Europe and in the East.

It states that these objects have been fully gained by the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and that the influence of England at Constantinople was never so great as at the present moment.

It then argues that the present influence of England at Constantinople and her prestige in the East are not at all dangerous to Russia, who can give England every assurance that neither the final destruction of Turkey nor the seizure of Constantinople ever has been, or ever will be, the object of Russian policy.

The Russian national policy requires the liberation of the Christians in Turkey, which is in entire accordance with the real interests of all the European Powers, and the best guarantee of peace in the East.

It ends with stating that, if England will now agree to the actual liberation of the Christians from the Turkish yoke—bearing also in consideration the price paid for it by Russian blood—an agreement between England and Russia will become an accomplished fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Substance of Article in the "Golos."

(Translation.)

THE following article, which is evidently of official origin, appears in the "Golos" of the $\frac{17}{29}$th May, 1878. The tone of the article may be regarded as being of a pacific tendency, and presents a strong contrast both in language and argument to preceding articles that have appeared in the "Golos" on the same subject. The difficulty of the Russian position is indirectly recognized; and the evident object of the writer is to prepare the Russian public for the concessions that Russia contemplates making in order to secure peace.

"An agreement between Russia and England on the Eastern question is only possible under two conditions: firstly, if England will definitively become convinced that the destruction of Turkey and the seizure of the shores of the Bosphorus do not comprise the sole objects of Russian policy; and, secondly, if the prestige of England

in Turkey will stand so high that, irrespective of her, the Eastern question cannot, under any circumstances, be finally solved. The importance of such prestige in the East is fully recognized by all Englishmen, no matter of what party; they see in this the all important condition of their domination in India over a population of many millions.

"These are the objects which the English Government have unwaveringly pursued during the last two years. At the time that Disraeli became the head of the Conservative Government the importance of England in Europe was very insignificant. The peaceful and colourless policy of Gladstone's Ministry secured for England the blessings of peace, but considerably impaired the prestige of that great nation in the arena of international relations. The traditions of the Tory party demanded a brilliant foreign policy, and its interests obliged the Government to brandish the sword and deliver loud and violent speeches on the question of foreign policy, drowning the voices demanding internal reforms.

"The reappearance of the irrepressible Eastern question afforded the English Government the full possibility of regaining their former position in Europe, and proving to the whole world that England was still a Power without whose consent no European question could be settled. The drawing up of the Berlin Memorandum, without her participation, proved of great service to England. The English Government triumphantly refused to become a party to the fulfilment of a measure which was drawn up by three Imperial Powers, and ratified in due course by all the Great Powers. This refusal at once elevated England's political significance to a considerable height, as, in consequence of this rejection, the Berlin Memorandum become null and void.

"The Conference at Constantinople, at which the Representative of England played such a prominent part, did not succeed, but the Protocols of the discussions and the private negotiations carried on serve as a permanent monument of the enormous political influence which England acquired during the discussion of the Eastern question and European matters generally. When the war broke out between Russia and Turkey, England remained neutral. But it is well-known with what arrogance she criticised the declaration of war by Russia, and under what conditions she agreed to maintain a neutrality. In May month, last year, Lord Derby stated the conditions of English neutrality, calculating, Machiavelian-like, that the war would exhaust Russia, and that a final peace could not, under any circumstances, be concluded without the consent of England or in opposition to her wishes.

"The brilliant and unparalelled exploits of the Russian soldier disconcerted for a moment the English Government. But they soon recovered from their surprise, and even fright. When the Turkish Empire was at the feet of Russia, when the Russian troops drew near to the gates of Constantinople, England considered it opportune to commence action. She then dispatched her fleet into the Sea of Marmora, in spite of the protests of the Porte, and openly armed herself for a struggle with Russia.

"The moment arrived quite unexpectedly when all the prestige, all the significance of England in the East was suddenly to disappear before the irresistible advance of the Russian victors. The moment arrived when all the moves of English policy during the last two years were paralysed, when 'British interests' might be swept from the face of the earth, when the Russian eagle would soar in the East unhammelled and unchecked.

"From that moment England was compelled to adopt every measure for the safety of her influence and her prestige. Lord Beaconsfield was obliged to grasp the sword and mount guard at the gates of Constantinople in vindication, in the eyes of all England, of his noisy and war-like policy. He was ready to declare war against Russia. But under what pretext? Would he declare war because the famous British interests had been violated by Russia and the San Stefano Treaty? What had Europe to do with the British interests and the egotistical aims of English policy? Russia had faithfully fulfilled those conditions which England herself had laid down as the basis of her neutrality.

"All these considerations were carefully weighed in London. England suddenly changed her policy; she declared herself the champion of European rights and of the sanctity of international Treaties. The English Government loudly reiterated that it was not in the name of British interests—no, but in the name of European interests, and for the eternal principles of truth and justice that she would unsheathe the sword and put a limit to Russian aggression.

"Russia, said the English Government, by concluding the San Stefano Treaty, has attacked the inviolability of all Treaties securing the independence of the Ottoman

Empire and the order of things in the East. Russia is the enemy of Europe, the insatiate invader, and the violater of Treaties.

"Notwithstanding the utter absurdity of these charges, notwithstanding that the English fleet before the eyes of all Europe had forced its way into the Bosphorus, notwithstanding also that it was wholly and solely owing to the egotistical policy of England that the last war broke out and the peace of Europe was disturbed, nevertheless England gained her object. The supporters of English policy increased not daily but hourly, not only in England but also in Europe. In Europe they forgot that England never for one moment loses sight of her own special interests, for which she ready to sacrifice all—life, honour, and the substance of millions of people.

"This was not enough. The warlike demonstrations of England, and the decisive attitude of the English Government, not only invigorated the defeated Turk, but in a still greater degree increased England's influence in Turkey. At the present time Layard occupies the position of Vice-Sultan, and his orders are unhesitatingly carried out by the Porte. Time out of mind England's prestige was never so great at Constantinople and in the East generally as it is at the present moment.

"In view of such circumstances, it will be understood why England exhibits a certain inclination to come to terms with Russia. She has attained her object; notwithstanding all the victories of the Russian troops English influence is stronger now at Constantinople than it ever was before.

"Consequently, if only a definite guarantee is given in London to the effect that Russia does not desire the destruction of Turkey, nor yet exclusive supremacy at Constantinople, the English Government will not be disinclined to come to an agreement with Russia in respect to the order of things in the East.

"Such are England's views. How must Russia regard these objects of English policy? Can she consent to the demands of the English Government.

"It is evident that until such demands are categorically defined the question cannot be answered. At the present moment it is essentially necessary to clearly comprehend the position from which Russia cannot withdraw under any conditions whatsoever.

"The present influence of England in Constantinople and her prestige in the East are not at all dangerous to Russia, whose geographical position serves as a sufficient guarantee that her influence will always be felt in the East. Consequently prestige is not worth fighting for. Similarly Russia can give England every assurance that neither the final destruction of Turkey, nor the seizure of Constantinople, ever has been, or will be, the object of Russian policy.

"But never, and notwithstanding any threats or coalitions, can Russia underrate the streams of Russian blood spilt, nor forget her obligations in respect to the Christian subjects of Turkey. These two principles will always serve as the keystone of Russian national policy.

"Russian policy, like that of England, must always be primarily guided by national rights and interests.

"But this is not enough; she must wrench the weapon out of the hands of her foe—a weapon which he has latterly employed with such great success. It is necessary to prove to the whole of Europe, by most conclusive facts, that the liberation of the Christians, for whom the Russian nation sacrificed the life and health of her best sons, is in entire accordance with the real interests of all the European nations, and that it comprises the best guarantee for the preservation of peace in the East. It is necessary to remove all doubts that in this great work the earnest wishes of the Russian nation are perfectly coincident with the happiness and welfare of Europe.

"And now if England will agree to the actual liberation of the Christians from the Turkish yoke, if she will retract her determination to define the price of Russian blood spilt, we consider that an agreement between England and Russia will become an accomplished fact."

No. 183.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 10.*)

(No. 592.) *St. Petersburgh, June 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, in translation by Mr. Michell, an interesting article from the "Russki Mir," on the great importance to Russia, in a commercial light, of the possession of the port of Batoum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Extract from the "Russki Mir" of $\frac{\text{May 29}}{\text{June 11}}$ 1878.

(Translation.)

BATOUM AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO RUSSIA.—The only clause in the Treaty of San Stefano which affects the vital interests of England is Clause XIX, which speaks of the annexation of Batoum to Russian territory, as, with the possession of Batoum, Russia can easily dispatch her goods to all the markets in Central Asia, and she will command the possibility of entirely displacing English goods, or at any rate of seriously competing with them in all the Central Asian Khanates, in Khiva, Bokhara, Herat, Afghanistan, and the eastern province of Persia (Horassan).

In order to possess the possibility of competing with the English transit trade, which finds its way from Trebizond to Erzeroum and Tabriz, the Russian Government established the port of Poti and commenced the construction of a railway from Poti to Baku viâ Tiflis, with the object of opening a route for transit trade over the Trans-Caucasus and the Caspian to Mezenderan, in Persia, and from Astarabad further through Meshed and Herat into Central Asia.

When only a portion of the railway, that from Poti to Tiflis was concluded, the Persian caravans abandoned their former long route from Tabriz to Trebizond, and proceeded to Poti by way of Djulfa, and consequently the Trans-Caucasus derived certain benefits, though small, from such transit.

In order to attract this trade the Russian Government entirely abolished the duty on European wares in transit through the Trans-Caucasus. This measure undoubtedly was not a practical one, but was probably adopted in consideration that our goods in any case would not be able to compete with Western European manufactures coming viâ Trebizond to Persia, where they entirely superseded Russian goods in all the markets south of the Elbruz Mountain bordering the shores of the Caspian. But even foreign goods, though overrunning Persia, could not penetrate to the southern shores of the Caspian for the reason that there existed no convenient routes over the Elbruz mountains, and in consequence of which Russian wares reigned supreme in the markets on the souther coast. But this did not continue for long.

In 1864 the Russian Government acceded to the earnest desires of the English; they accorded the right of free transit along the new route from Tiflis to Baku, and thence by sea to the Persian shore of the Caspian, thus depriving Russian goods of this last, even though inconsiderable, market. Together with this free transit, so hurtful to Russian commerce, there arose a still more injurious contraband trade, as certain portions of foreign goods discharged at Poti never, it is asserted, reached the town of Baku, but disappear on the route in the Trans-Caucasus and Russia; in place of the goods, logs of wood, stones, &c., are transported further in order to deceive the Russian Customs officials, who superficially examine the number of packs in transit, so that even local Russian trade in the Trans-Caucasus finds powerful foreign rivals supported by the Government and their subordinates.

Prince Gortchakow, in 1869, strove to effect the removal of this free transit of foreign goods through the Trans-Caucasus, and for this object a Committee was organized under the Presidency of the Grand Duke Constantine. This Committee, after two sittings in January, 1870, resolved temporarily to maintain the free transit of goods to Djulpa and Baku, and to levy duties on all goods proceeding to Asia viâ Krasnovodsk. It was further resolved that the free transit to Baku should be stopped if the import of English goods increased to the extent of endangering Russian trade.

From that time the figures representing the imported foreign goods transported through Persia have rapidly and considerably increased. Thus, from 1864 to 1873 the

figures rose from 902,305 roubles to 2,643,161 roubles. It is very interesting to remark, however, that with every success of our troops in Central Asia the transit trade diminished. In 1870, when we captured Tashkent, the transit decreased by about 700,000 roubles, and that of manufactured goods by 230,000 roubles. After the capture of Samarkand in 1868, the transport of goods was less by 80,000 roubles in comparison with the preceding year, and from that time the figures continued to decrease, and are represented in 1871 by only 403,000 roubles. In 1873, during our campaign against Khiva, the English increased the introduction of their goods to the amount of 2,643,164 roubles, almost four times more than in the previous year.

The concession of the railway from Tiflis to Baku was given only on the supposition that the free transit over the Trans-Caucasus would at some time be suppressed, and that Russia had the idea of profiting by the transit of foreign trade for the purpose of increasing her revenue.

English trade, in view of such favourable conditions, and the improvements introduced in the communications through the Trans-Caucasus, has established itself thoroughly on the road from Poti to Baku, to northern Persia, and the Persian markets of Astrabad and Meshed to the north-west have become enormous depôts for English goods, similarly to Tabriz in the west, or Shiraz in the south of Persia, from which points English manufactures penetrate in three directions into Central Asia. The trade route from Poti, viâ Tiflis, to Baku, and further over the Caspian Sea to Astrabad, Meshed, and Herat, into Central Asia, represents the most convenient channel for English transit trade; it is the shortest and safest of the remaining routes from the Persian Gulf to the centre of Persia, so that, thanks to the free transit through our territory, this Anglo-Russian route entirely commands the Central Asian markets in Khiva, Bokhara, Herat, and Cabul, which have become the advanced depôts for the goods of our rivals the British nation.

Our manufactures, meanwhile, find their way to Central Asia by the second and longest route, and consequently by the more expensive one, and our goods being of an inferior quality, cannot contend successfully with those of England in the bazaars of Khiva and Bokhara. Even if of equal quality, English goods must necessarily be cheaper than ours.

If our Government has hitherto not acted energetically towards furthering our trade in that direction; if it has not abolished, up to the present moment, the free transit of foreign colonial wares through the Trans-Caucasus, and if it has not imposed a heavy duty on English goods, or completely and unconditionally prohibited English transit through our territory to Persia, this may be solely attributed to a fear that English transit trade in that case might direct its course straight to Batoum (instead of from Poti to Baku), from whence a thriving contraband trade could be conducted, partly in the Trans-Caucasus, but principally from Batoum through Turkish territory to Tabriz, and from thence by former routes to Central Asia. This was always to be feared so long as Batoum belonged to the Turkish Empire. This port can safely be said to be the key for English trade in Central Asia. But once in Russian hands, the Russian Government need not any longer entertain fears that the English transit trade in Central Asia could as easily evade the Russian Custom-houses as was possible formerly.

Once in possession of Batoum, with the best port in the Black Sea, the neighbouring country, and the River Tchorok-Su, and after annexing Ardahan, Kars, and Bayazid up to Saganlug, Russia will have complete control over the English transit trade to Central Asia, and may force it to recede to the routes along which this trade was carried on prior to 1864, namely, to Trebizond, Erzeroum, and the Erivan district, from which places only English goods could penetrate into Persia, to the principal depôt at Tabriz, and from thence overland into Central Asia. But this old route is far longer, costlier, and more dangerous than the present one over the Trans-Caucasus, consequently it is less profitable for the English, who of course are not desirous of dividing their profits with Turkish and Persian agents, and also with caravans. Besides this, Russia will then do away with the competitions of English goods in her own territories, and the Government will have the opportunity of abolishing free transit by way of the Trans-Caucasus, and will thereby free Russian trade from contraband operations in the Caucasus, and in the Transcaspian from the threatening competition of English trade.

In one word, Russia, after acquiring Batoum, can direct the Central Asian trade as best suits her views, and in favour of Russian commerce, which hitherto she has been unable to do, owing to her having been compelled to direct more attention to foreign interests than to her own. The transit over the Caucasus will therefore no

longer serve for objects in direct opposition to those which the Russian Government are endeavouring to attain in the Turkistan region. Only muslin and indigo are admitted to Turkistan from India, and only upon paying a high duty of 50 per cent., whereas all other goods of English manufacture are prohibited to be imported since the year 1868.

"Batoum, besides, is the only good port in the Black Sea. It possesses great signification for Russia, both commercially and politically, and is the only solid advantage that Russia will have acquired by the late war, which she maintained alone, and which cost her so much blood and substance.

"If the English prize the freedom of the Straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus; if they have determined to occupy Gallipoli for the purpose of converting it into a second Gibraltar, and if they are so energetically arming themselves against Russia, it is not for the diminution of the confines of Bulgaria or Montenegro, but clearly for Batoum, that key of English commercial interests. If Batoum remains in the hands of the Turks, England will no longer conceal her endeavour to secure practical possession of this important commercial point."

(Signed) E. J. VATZLIK.

The author of the foregoing article was at one time Secretary to the Prince of Montenegro and his Agent at St. Petersburgh. He is now domiciled at St. Petersburgh, where he earns a precarious livelihood by contributing to the ultra-Slav organs of the Russian press.—*Translator.*

No. 184.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 374.) *Berlin, June 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, I inquired of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, what truth there was in the report that Prince Reuss had refused to invite the Turks to the Congress until they had surrendered Varna.

His Excellency replied that the report must be due to some misapprehension; for the invitation had been communicated by Prince Reuss, and accepted by the Porte on the same day as by the other Powers, and he had not heard of any question or condition having been raised on either side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 185.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 385.) *Berlin, June 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs, Herr Von Bülow, has been appointed second, and Prince Hohenlohe, the German Ambassador at Paris, third Plenipotentiary to the Congress. Herr von Radowitz, the German Minister at Athens, and Count Herbert Bismarck, are to act as Secretaries.

The French Government have asked to have the Comte de Moüy, Secretary to the French Embassy, appointed Assistant Secretary to the Congress, with the two above named gentlemen, to which Prince Bismarck has consented. The Comte de Moüy is an eminent writer of the French language.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 186.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 8 Juin, 1878.*

Alexandre Caratheodory Effendi a été nommé Premier Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan au Congrès de Berlin, et élevé à cette occasion au grade de Mouchir et appelé en même temps au poste de Ministre des Travaux Publics. Saadoullah Bey est nommé Second Plénipotentiaire, ainsi que Mehemet Ali Pacha, qui quitte aujourd'hui la capitale avec son Excellence Alexandre Pacha.

No. 187.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 9 Juin, 1878.*

NOUS venons d'apprendre que les journaux de l'Europe ont publié un Memorandum comme émanant de la Sublime Porte sur la pression exercée par les Plénipotentiaires Russes lors des négociations du Traité de San Stéfano. Ce Memorandum est apocryphe. La Sublime Porte n'a jamais adressé à personne une telle pièce. Vous pouvez l'affirmer de la façon la plus catégorique.

No. 188.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 39. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, June 6, 1878.*

REFERRING to paragraphs 5 and 6 of my despatch of the 28th ultimo, No. 29, Political, I have now the honour to transmit copies of Vice-Consul Onofrio's Report, received since that date, rendering an account of the results of his mission to the Epirote refugees on the Acrocerunian frontier, as also the translations of two Memorials presented to him by the refugees, for transmission to Her Majesty's Government.

2. Mr. Onofrio appears to have conducted his negotiations with the refugees with all the ability I expected, and in a way which, I trust, will meet with your Lordship's approval.

3. But I should have greater confidence in its ultimate success, notwithstanding the pressure brought to bear upon the refugees by the Greek officials at Carvassará, were it not that, according to information just received, some 230 of the so-called insurgents are still lurking in the Forest of Radovisi, at the foot of the Pindus range, on the slopes of which the villages of the refugees are chiefly situated, and who will be always ready, at the bidding of the "Committee," to use any appliances fitted to deter them from returning to their homes, or compelling them once more to return to Greek territory, should they have already returned home, placing the whole proceedings to the account of Turkish cruelty and hatred of the Christians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, May 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with your telegraphic instructions of the 13th instant (received on the afternoon of the 15th), I started from Santa Maura on the morning of the 16th for Vonitza and Carvassará, on my mission to inform the refugees from Epirus that an ample amnesty having been proclaimed by the Sultan, they might return without fear to their own territory, where their safety was guaranteed.

2. I arrived at Vonitza on the afternoon of the 16th, where I was informed tha there were no refugees in that quarter, but that a large number of them was in the district of Valtho; I therefore proceeded next day to Carvassará, where I at once placed myself in communication with the leaders of the refugees, from whom I learnt that there were at that town two members of the late so-called "Provisional Government of Radovisi," along with some other fifteen insurgents; while about 200 families, consisting of some 1,600 persons from Radovisi and Tzumerka, in a most destitute condition, depending for their subsistence on occasional relief from the Patriotic Committees and on the charity of the inhabitants, were quartered in the villages of Valtho.

3. On the morning of the 18th, I had an interview with the leaders who were accompanied by all the fifteen insurgents and other refugees whose families were staying in the distant villages of Valtho. I informed them that, in consequence of an ample amnesty proclaimed by the Sultan, all the insurgents and refugees might return without fear to their territory, where their safety was guaranteed, but that they should do their utmost to live in peace with the Turks and to wait until their fate, as well as that of their fellow-Christians in Turkey, shall have been decided upon by the European Congress; and I added that the suspension of hostilities in Thessaly, &c., followed by the amnesty being due to the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, they should not listen to the incitements of agitators who may, in the long run, bring ruin upon their country. The refugees replied they were grateful for my visit, and expressed their sense of gratitude for the interest and sympathy evinced by Her Majesty's Government for the Christians in the East. They were also grateful for the act of grace proclaimed by the Sultan, but insisted that the Turkish troops should be withdrawn from their district, as the subordinate organs of the Porte, regardless, as it was their wont, of the generous intentions and dispositions of their Sovereign, would surely, sooner or later, provoke further collisions; that they could not consider their lives and property, as well as the honour of their families, safe, as long as any Turkish troops occupied their district. They further stated, in support of their apprehensions, that, despite the proclamation of the amnesty, the troops were still committing outrages in their district, and, so late as the 17th instant, 1,300 Turks, amongst whom a body of Bashi-Bazouks led by Jacam Bey, having burnt the village of Botzi and three houses at Séklista, the inhabitants had been compelled to fortify themselves to prevent further Turkish invasion and molestation. They finally stated that six fellow-countrymen of theirs, named in the margin,* arrested four months ago on suspicion of conspiracy, were still detained in the prisons of Arta and Janina. They thought that by virtue of the amnesty these prisoners ought to have been released days ago, as a first step calculated to inspire them with confidence in the sincerity of the dispositions of the Turkish authorities. Under these circumstances, therefore, they were afraid to go back to their own territory, and made their return conditional upon the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from their districts. I replied, that they could not expect that the Turkish "regular" troops would be withdrawn from their districts as long as peace was not restored.

4. On the same day (18th) the Turkish Consul at Carvassará received a letter from Ali Pasha, the Military Governor and Commander of the Forces in Epirus, stating that having heard of the object of my mission, his Excellency would have much pleasure to meet me, either at Salavra or at Anino. I agreed to meet Ali Pasha at Anino, but, in requesting the Consul to convey my reply to the Pasha, I expressed my apprehension that the continued detention of the six political prisoners at Arta and Janina, alluded to above, might retard the success of my mission. The Consul regretted that they had not yet been released, while all the other prisoners taken at Santi Quaranta were liberated, and said he would write to his Excellency.

5. I met Ali Pasha on the 22nd instant at Anino. His Excellency received me with the greatest consideration and with every possible mark of friendship and disposition to promote the interests of peace. I told his Excellency that I was instructed to inform the insurgents and the refugees from Epirus that in consequence of the proclamation of the ample Amnesty granted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan they might return without fear to their territory, where their safety was guaranteed. I then asked his Excellency whether any irregulars still occupied the district of Radovisi. Ali Pasha replied that he was most happy to be able to give the broadest interpretation to the act of grace of his august Sovereign. The insurgents and

* At Arta—Andrea Cusuvakis, of Radovisi; George Andrea Cusuvakis, ditto; Costantino Cusuvakis, ditto; Christo Costo Cusuvakis, ditto; Demetrio Christo Cusuvakis, ditto. At Janina—Demetrio Daniellis, of Tzumerka.

refugees were at liberty to return, their lives were safe, and their property would be restored to them. The Bashi-Bazouks and Albanian irregulars having been withdrawn from the district, regular troops now occupied certain positions on the frontier, of which his Excellency gave me a note.* The refugees had nothing to fear, as these troops were respectable and well disciplined men under the command of officers in whom his Excellency placed implicit confidence. That he promised they would not in the least molest the inhabitants as long as the latter should live in peace. Moreover, his Excellency would urge the expediency of one year's remission of taxes in consideration of the distressed condition of the refugees, who had lost their cattle, crops, &c. On my mentioning the names of the six prisoners above alluded to, and on expressing my apprehension that their further detention, despite the amnesty, might retard the good success of my mission, his Excellency replied that he was as much desirous and interested in the good result of my mission as I was, and as he warmly desired to promote the speedy return of the refugees to their homes and to restore peace in the district, he had already given the necessary orders for the immediate release of the prisoners in question. Ali Pasha at the close of the interview authorized me to communicate the substance of our conversation to Her Majesty's Government, and to add that his Excellency had solemnly promised that no molestation whatever should be caused by the troops as long as the inhabitants and refugees kept the peace. Ali Pasha then caused a document (safe conduct) to be drawn up, and which he communicated to me, addressed to all the military authorities on the Turkish frontier enjoining them to protect the refugees. The document confirms in substance nearly all that his Excellency had said in the course of the conversation. I have the honour to inclose herewith a certified translation from the original in Turkish which his Excellency handed to the Turkish Consul of Carvassara (who was present at the interview), and of which he is to give copies to the refugees returning home.

6. I should not omit to state that in the course of our conversation I mentioned to Ali Pasha the story of the burning of the villages of Botzi and Saklista alluded to above. Ali Pasha said it was devoid of any foundation as far as the Turks were concerned. There were no Bashi-Bazouks in the district; the villages had been burnt deliberately by the insurgents themselves with the view of making out a strong case against the Turks. He then showed me a declaration signed by the primates of all the villages through which the troops had passed, including Botzi and Saklista, to the effect that the inhabitants had no complaint to make against the troops, and that public order had not been disturbed. His Excellency said it was a rule with the military authorities to ask similar declarations in order to at once ascertain and make good, if necessary, any damages which the inhabitants may have suffered from the passage of the troops. Between these two conflicting versions it is somewhat difficult to sift the truth as to what had really occurred in that quarter.

7. On my return to Carvassará I had another interview with the leaders, to whom I communicated the substance of my conversation with Ali Pasha, and told them they had nothing to fear from the troops, as his Excellency had given solemn assurances that the inhabitants would not be molested by them. But they still objected to the presence of any Turkish troops in their district. I replied that I could no longer interfere, as my instructions did not authorize me to demand the withdrawal of the Turkish regular troops from the frontier districts of Epirus; all I could do under the circumstances was to suggest the withdrawal of the Bashi-Bazouks and Albanians from the districts of Radovisi and Tzumerka, and that had been done.

8. I also saw the Nomarch of Acarnania, M. Dukas, who said he was satisfied that the refugees had now nothing to fear, and that there was no reason why they should any longer refrain from returning to their homes, and as they were now a burden to Greece he would advise them to return, but "he could not compel them to quit the country." It appears, however, that the Nomarch did not succeed in convincing them that they had nothing to fear, and that "there was no reason why they should any longer refrain from returning to their homes," as after their interview with this functionary the leaders still persisted in making their return conditional upon the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from their district till Congress decides upon their fate.

9. In spite, however, of this persistent refusal on the part of the leaders, I am glad to be able to state that several families availed themselves of the assurances I gave in consequence of my interview with Ali Pasha. Twenty families of Kosciani

* 2 companies under Captain Ilekir Effendi, at Skolikaria; 2 companies under Captain Ali Effendi, at Demario; 3 companies under Captain Veli Effendi, at Botzi; 1 company under Captain Las Bashi, at Calandin; 1 company under Captain Las Bashi, at Tzumerka. Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Bey, commanding the district.

returned to that village on the 24th instant; three more left for Tzumerka by way of Arta on the same day; others were preparing to return, and I have reason to believe that the other families on whom the leaders may have hitherto exercised a certain degree of influence will likewise return as soon as the others shall send word that they enjoy perfect safety, and that the assurances of Ali Pasha are being fulfilled.

10. In conclusion, although two or three of the leaders have been playing into the hands of a party which does not look with pleasure upon the restoration of peace on the Turco-Greek frontier, yet, I believe, that my mission has so far had good results. Nor should I omit to say that all sorts of intrigue and influence from all quarters were, and are still, set to work with the intent of dissuading the refugees from placing any trust in Turkish promises and assurances, however solemnly made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

The Insurrectionary Chiefs to Vice-Consul Onofrio.

(Traduction du Grec.)

Carussarà, le $\frac{9}{18}$ *Mai*, 1878.

M. le Vice-Consul,

DES que nous avons appris que vous alliez arriver dans notre pays de Radovizi et Tzumerka avec la mission d'examiner tout ce qui se rapporte à nos affaires insurrectionnaires, et les motifs qui nous ont poussés à nous révolter contre la tyrannie des Musulmans, nous avons jugé plus opportun de nous rendre ici et vous exposer personnellement toutes choses.

Plusieurs mois se sont écoulés depuis que nous avons pris les armes et essayé de secouer l'oppression des Turcs comme injuste, arbitraire et sans aucun respect envers tout ce que nous avons de sacré, la vie, la propriété, l'honneur. Nous avons combattu et nous ne cesserons de combattre jusqu'à obtenir notre liberté, ou mourir.

Nous combattons parce que nous ne trouvons pas de justice devant leurs Tribunaux et cela parce que nous ne professons pas leur religion, ce qui rend notre témoignage sans valeur. Nous combattons parce qu'on nous surcharge à chaque instant d'impôts ordinaires et de contributions extraordinaires, comme, par exemple, la conscription, l'impôt sur la valeur de la propriété, la dîme sur la même, l'impôt sur les édifices, l'impôt sur les emplois et professions, l'impôt sur les troupeaux à raison de quatre sur dix sur les revenus bruts, la dîme sur la culture de tabac et la confiscation, en cas de retard dans le paiement. Souvent sur la même chose on impose d'impôts triples et quadruples. En outre, on nous force de payer tout ce qu'une volonté arbitraire leur suggère; ainsi dans les ventes et toute sorte de propriété nous payons le dixième sur la valeur, qu'elle soit meuble ou immeuble, et le 10 sur 100 au cas qu'elle serait cachée.

Dans les cas des logements militaires nous sommes tenus non seulement à nourrir gratuitement leurs soldats, mais de les charger gratuitement aussi de provisions pour plusieurs jours.

Des faits de même nature surabondent, mais le temps nous manque pour les exposer en détail comme nous le voulions.

En effet, le moindre détachement de l'armée Impériale peut à son aise piller nos propriétés sans que personne l'en empêche, par la raison que l'autorité n'est pas moins dépravée et corrompue. Comme exemple, nous reproduisons les faits suivants ayant eu lieu dans les seules nos provinces:—

Des soldats (Lieps) ont arrêté le nommé Mychiotes, du village Méllesurgo (Province Tzumerca de Janina) et l'ont dépouillé de son troupeau et de tout ce qu'il possédait de réels. D'autres soldats ont arrêté Demetrius Valachiotis, d'Aspropotamo, et lui enlevèrent 150 moutons, et l'autorité Turque, au lieu de protéger ces victimes, encourageait ces soldats lesdits.

Les Turcs dans tous les temps nous dépouillèrent à leur profit de nos propriétés, sans nous laisser même le droit d'avoir recours aux Tribunaux; au contraire, l'autorité reconnaissait l'usurpation en reconnaissant comme propriétaires des usurpateurs et en jetant dans les prisons nous, les seuls et vrais maîtres et possesseurs, pour ne pas importuner ces bandits dans la poursuite de leur proie.

Pendant cinq années successives ils doublèrent la dîme sur la récolte de céréals et nous obligèrent de payer le six sur dix sur le revenu brut; ils doublèrent aussi tous les impôts directs. Outre cela on nous força de payer pendant un grand laps de temps

pour l'habillement de l'armée, pour sa chaussure, pour sa nourriture, et firent si bien qu'ils nous laissèrent dépouillés jusqu'aux os.

Et pensez-vous, qu'après nous avoir arrangé de la sorte on nous laissa enfin tranquilles? Non! Ils devaient achever leur œuvre de destruction en profanant les temples, en brisant les saintes images—les sacriléges! Ils pénétrèrent ensuite jusque dans le Saint Tabernacle, où ils se livrèrent à des actes si horribles et si honteux que la plume se refuse à les décrire.

Après toutes ces horreurs on a mis le feu dans la plus part des églises, qui furent réduites en cendres si bien que dans tout le pays il n'y a pas une seule qui soit restée debout.

Pendant et après les journées de 3 et 13 Février, les Turcs, sous les yeux des autorités, ont mis au pillage les propriétés des habitants de Bochats et Raftani (de la Province de Tzumerka) en leur prenant 25,000 drachmes, de Mardon 20,000, de Skovetgiani autres 20,000 et plus ou moins de plusieurs autres villages.

Leur férocité alla jusqu'à couper des pieds et des mains qu'il jetèrent au feu et beaucoup on a brûlé vifs comme autant de martyrs de notre sainte cause.

Tous ces monstres sont des hommes puissants, féroces et impies. Ils ont pour eux le pouvoir et l'audace que donne l'idée de l'impunité et de la supériorité religieuse. Quant à nous, nous n'avons qu'à choisir entre la liberté ou la mort.

Depuis 1821 jusqu'à ce jour, nous n'avons cessé de réclamer nos droits, les armes à la main, devant la justice des puissants de la terre; malheureusement nous fûmes repoussés, soit que leurs intérêts ne leur permirent pas de prêter l'oreille à nos justes réclamations, soit que notre voix fût étouffée dans la tempête des passions.

Heureusement que les temps des intérêts et des passions est déjà loin et nous espérons que la bonne cause doit à la fin triompher, grâce à la justice des puissants, qui n'hésitèrent pas de donner, à la fin, raison aux victimes contre leurs tyrans.

Si, M. le Consul, les puissants du monde représentent en effet Dieu sur la terre, ils doivent aussi représenter sa justice Divine, et alors il sera de leur devoir de nous rendre justice dans la sainte cause dont le jugement leur est coupé.

L'état déplorable où nous vivons, et que nous avons faiblement essayé de vous décrire, nous impose le devoir de nous réfugier sous la haute et généreuse protection de la grande nation dont vous êtes le Représentant et dont le Gouvernement a eu la noble initiative de défendre les droits des peuples d'Orient, en la suppliant de plaider aussi en faveur des nôtres, en nous délivrant ainsi de la terreur où nos tyrans nous tiennent plongés.

En mettant fin à la présente nous ne savons trop répéter qu'en nous soulevant contre nos oppresseurs nous n'avons fait qu'obéir à la voix du devoir, que nous avons le droit de compter pour notre indépendance sur les sympathies de l'Europe, que nous nous sommes acquis ce droit par le sang dont nous avons arrosé le sol de notre malheureuse patrie. Nous déclarons enfin, une dernière fois, qu'il nous est impossible de vivre désormais en paix avec nos tyrans, parce que enfin, à une telle vie la mort est infiniment préférable.

Agréez, &c.

Les Chefs de l'Insurrection de l'Epire Méridional.

(Suivent 10 signatures).

Inclosure 3 in No. 188.

The Insurrectionary Chiefs to Vice-Consul Onofrio.

(Traduction du Grec.)

Carussarà, le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Mai*, 1878.

M. le Consul,

LES motifs qui nous ont poussé à nous révolter de nouveau contre les oppressions du Gouvernement de la Turquie vous sont déjà exposés, et nous espérons que vous n'avez pas manqué de les prendre en considération.

Ces motifs sont de nature à convaincre tous les amis de la liberté qu'en reprenant les armes nous n'avons fait qu'obéir à la voix du droit et de la justice.

Mais il ne s'agit pas de cela. Par la présente nous nous empressons de formuler nos demandes et des propositions dans le but de mettre désormais une fin à la guerre que nous avons entreprise contre les Turcs qui, de leur part, essaient aussi de nous prévenir, et empêcher de la sorte le versement du sang, au temps même où les Puissances de l'Europe ont pris sur elles de rendre justice aux peuples opprimés.

Nous demandons par conséquent et supplions humblement la Grande Bretagne,

qui dans sa magnanimité a voulu bien prendre l'initiative de protéger les intérêts des peuples de l'Orient, de prendre aussi sous sa haute protection, par devant qui de droit, nous autres habitants de l'Epire, qui en toute confiance reportons sur elle toutes nos espérances de délivrance.

Et, d'abord, nous déclarons par la présente qu'il nous est absolument impossible de retourner une autre fois sous le joug des Musulmans, mais comme nous ne désirons pas mettre d'obstacles aux efforts pacifiques de l'Europe nous soumettons humblement la proposition suivante.

Nous supplions la Grande Bretagne de vouloir persuader le Gouvernement Ottoman de nous laisser libres de rester dans nos provinces, et que les autorités Turques n'aient pas le droit d'y entrer jusqu'à ce que les Puissances décidassent de notre sort.

Si, au contraire, les Turcs essayeraient d'y entrer, nous serons, à coup sûr, forcés de reprendre les armes, en nous dépouillant de toute responsabilité.

Dans l'attente des ordres du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine nous vous prions d'agréer notre haute considération.

Les Chefs de l'insurrection de l'Epire méridionale,
(Suivent 10 signatures).

Inclosure 4 in No. 188.

Order issued by Ali Riza Pasha.

(Traduction.)

ATTENDU que le Gouvernement Impérial a permis à tous les réfugiés en Grèce de retourner à leurs foyers, et que, par clémence Impériale, fût accordé amnistie pleine à tous ceux qui auraient pris part à la dernière insurrection, moi, Soussigné, exécutant littéralement l'ordre mentionné, je déclare à tous ceux qui relevant de la juridiction de mon commandement militaire seraient réfugiés en Grèce, ainsi qu'à tous ceux qui auraient pris part à l'insurrection dernière, qu'ils peuvent, sans crainte et sans soupçons, rentrer dans leur pays, et qu'ils soient certains qu'ils y vivront en pleine sûreté de vie, de propriété, et d'honneur. A cet égard nous avons donné des ordres sévères à tous les officiers civils et militaires qui se trouvent dans les divers lieux de la province, pour qu'ils se comportent à leur égard conformément aux ordres du Gouvernement Impérial, et fournissent à tous ceux qui se présenteraient à la ligne frontière aide et protection.

En l'endroit St. Hélie (Département d'Arte), ce $\frac{19}{31}$ Mai, 1878.

Le Commandant des Troupes Impériales d'Arte,
(Signé) ALI PACHA, *Lieutenant-Général.*

No. 189.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 26.) *Galatz, June 4, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's despatch No. 2, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, transmitting a copy of Sir J. Stokes' despatch No. 7, of the 8th ultimo, relative to the wish of the Porte that the Danube Commission should commence the repayment of the advances made by Turkey for the execution of the works at the mouths of the Danube.

In my letter to your Lordship, No. 23 of the 18th ultimo, I mentioned that the German Commissioner had characterized this proposal as inopportune at the present moment, considering the unfavourable state of our finances.

I now beg to inclose a copy of a letter addressed on the 25th ultimo to the Commission by the French Delegate, showing that his Government is also opposed to the demand in question, and also to that of Russia, for the payment of the 500,000 fr. stipulated for in the XIIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.,*
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure in No. 189.

M. Herbette to the Members of the European Commission of the Danube at Galatz.

Croissy, le 25 Mai, 1878.

MM. et chers Collègues,

PAR dépêches des 7, 10, et 14 de ce mois, vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'annoncer que la Commission Européenne était saisie d'une demande de la Sublime Porte, relative au remboursement anticipé d'une partie de ses avances, ainsi que d'une communication de M. le Délégué de Russie tendant à obtenir le paiement d'une quote-part de la dite créance.

Bien que la session dans laquelle ces deux affaires devaient être examinées se trouve ajournée à une époque indéterminée, mon Gouvernement m'autorise à vous faire savoir que l'état actuel des finances de la Commission Européenne ne lui paraîtrait pas comporter l'acquittement de dettes non exigibles (ce qui est le cas en ce qui touche les avances de la Turquie dont l'amortissement ne doit commencer, aux termes de l'arrangement du 2 Novembre, 1869, qu'au 1 Janvier, 1883). L'adoption de cette mesure soulèverait, d'ailleurs, de graves objections au point de vue de l'Article 14 de l'Acte Public.

Je profite de cette occasion pour vous accuser réception de votre télégramme en date d'hier concernant la prochaine arrivée à Galatz du Délégué Ottoman.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) JULES HERBETTE.

No. 190.

Lord Tenterden to Embassies and Legations in Europe.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 10, 1878.*

LORD SALISBURY leaves this evening for Berlin. During the Congress he wishes all political telegrams to be sent in duplicate to him at Berlin and to the Foreign Office. Telegrams on other subjects to Foreign Office only.

No. 191.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 10, 1878.*

UNTIL further notice send messengers direct to Berlin by way of Vienna.

No. 192.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 710. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 10, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 651, Secret, of the 20th ultimo, I have to express to you my approval of your having advised the Sultan not to reject the Russian proposal for a Joint Commission to define a line of demarcation between the positions at present occupied by the Russian and Turkish troops in the vicinity of Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 395.) *Foreign Office, June 10, 1878.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 394 of the 8th instant, I inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Austrian Ambassador,* informing him that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has reported that, in face of the opposition of several Powers, the Porte appears to be disposed to abandon the proposal for an increase of the Customs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 194.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Armenian Archbishop Meguerditch Kherimian.

Foreign Office, June 10, 1878.

Most Reverend Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, inclosing a Project of Reformed Administration for the Armenians in Turkey; and whilst expressing to you my thanks for this communication, I beg leave to inform you that it shall receive due consideration from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 195.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 71. Political.) *Trebizond, May 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE forwarded, on the 23rd instant, the following telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"The Governor-General has just received the official news that the Russians have evacuated Artwin."

It is stated that their retreat, which took place yesterday, was due to Dervish Pasha having pointed out the danger of a conflict if they remained, and his inability to prevent the action of the population.

I had begged Captain Woods to give me all the details which he could pick up at Batoum.

The following is the extract of a letter which he addressed to me yesterday:—

"The whole country appears to be roused against the Russians, and a word from Stamboul would precipitate matters. There are 10 battalions of troops now under tents at Batoum, each 800 strong. At Artwin 3 same strength, at Tsurook-Hissar (Tsolook) 14, averaging from 400 to 600; at Ajara none but irregulars; Choorook Soo district some 4,000 Georgians are under arms. At Ajara the outposts are occupied by the volunteers. On road to Artwin, three hours distant, about 1 battalion. There are two outposts, one occupying a hill called Chaban Silour, with three guns and small redoubt; another redoubt lower down commands Chorok Valley. There is an outpost on the hill towards Tsurook Hissar called Chacko, three hours distant. Troops at Tsurook Hissar occupy entrenched posts on commanding heights. At Artwin the Turkish troops and Russian were close together. Turkish troops did not interfere in any way with Russians, in order to avoid conflict. Russian are said to have gone into houses, &c., and got hold of women. At Ajara about 3,000 Russians came; every one, men, women, children, with rifles, axes, knives, turned out and placed themselves in road, telling Russians that they must kill them first before they entered. Impossible to say how many Laz are under arms. The population is ready, so they say, and it only depends on amount of weapons and ammunition."

With the retreat of the Russians disappears the cause, whether exaggerated or not, of the intended emigration of the Armenians.

* No. 2.

Besides, provisions were very scarce at Livanah, and Dervish Pasha refused to send any from Batoum as long as the Russians remained at Artwin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 196.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 73. Political.) *Trebizond, May 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

THE Laz have forwarded to me for transmission a fresh address with which I abstain to trouble your Lordship, it being nothing but the repetition of what they have already stated over and over again. But I have the honour to transmit herewith another document, in translation, which I consider far more important, and which they sent here for publication. It is a Resolution, dated the $\frac{15}{27}$th instant, which on the $\frac{17}{29}$th was already covered with 33,247 signatures. It is declared therein that the whole population of the Lazistan is under arms, and resolved to die rather than submit to Russia.

The further news communicated to me by the Laz Beys is that on their departure from Artwin the Russians had threatened to come back in a few days with a strong force which they were getting ready; that the Laz had occupied with several thousand men the positions which it was necessary to guard; that there are at present only seven or eight Russian battalions at Tsolooksoo; and that their heavy artillery there has been replaced by light pieces, the former having been removed to Orpiri, a strong position on the Kiou, about half-way between Poti and Kutais, which, in the prevision of a war with England, they fortify as they had done during the Crimean war, to resist an invasion of their territory.

The Laz Beys give me the important information that they are in constant communication with the Georgian Princes in Russia, who seem to be ready to join them with all the populations in case of war between England and Russia.

I hear from a good source that two torpedo-boats have arrived within the last few days at Poti, and that several more are expected in a short time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Resolution signed by 33,247 Laz to fight against Russian Aggression.

(Free Translation.)

IN consequence of the disastrous war of last year, the Ottoman Government was compelled by the Treaty of San Stefano to give up Batoum to Russia as war indemnity. This sad news having filled our hearts with despair, we decided to make all efforts to deliver our native country from the hands of the Russians, and thus safeguard our religion and the honour of our families. Should the Russians (which God forbid) take possession of Batoum, we must either submit to them or emigrate. We can by no means consent to the one or the other of these two alternatives. We cannot submit to them, because they, being our enemies, will thwart our religious practices, and the Cossacks will violate our wives and daughters. We cannot emigrate, because most of the inhabitants of the Lazistan being very poor have not the means to defray their travelling expenses, and this being the case we should remain under the grasp of Russia, knowing that in a more or less remote period the Russians will compel us to abandon our religion.

In order to avoid a misfortune of this kind, all of us, men, women, and children, have rushed with courage to arms, and are decided to oppose with energy Russian invasion.

The Porte having remained indifferent in these circumstances, we applied to Europe, requesting with confidence the protection of Great Britain, and we hope that she will save us. In order to attain this object, we forwarded two telegrams to London; and to explain better our case to the British Government we sent twelve delegates to the British Consul at Trebizond.

Should England refuse us her protection, we have made up our minds to die rather than submit to Russia; we are now all under arms, ready to carry out our decision at any cost, and decided to inflict the deserving punishment on whoever should not keep his promise. To this effect the present Resolution has been drawn up and signed with our own seals.

Batoum, May $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

P.S.—The number of those who have signed the present Resolution, and which is increasing daily, is 83,247.

Batoum, May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

No. 197.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June* 11.)

Admiralty, June 10, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter of the 25th May, inclosing a despatch from Vice-Admiral Hornby, relative to the advisability of removing the fleet under his command from the Gulf of Ismid, after the middle of June, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that orders have been sent to Vice-Admiral Hornby to move his squadron to the anchorage near Prince's Islands if and when the present anchorage becomes unhealthy for the fleet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

No. 198.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 557. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 10, 1878.

PORTE has declined to accept Convention proposed by Roumania for sending back prisoners referred to in my telegram No. 534, preferring that question of Roumania should be settled by Congress.

French Ambassador has strongly urged this course.

No. 199.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 558.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 10, 1878.

SULTAN has named his former Secretary, Said Pasha, Vali of Angora, but at his earnest request he has been appointed to Brousa. General Said Pasha has been made Vali of Angora, and has been replaced in the Palace by Osman Pasha.

No. 200.

Ekbal Doulch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

Baghdad, June 10, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I LIVE retired, am a favoured and sincere friend of British Government, particularly your Lordship; obliged servant, though old am still young in heart, and am prepared to render British Government any service within my power in whatever contest it may have with an enemy faithless to it and also hostile to Islam.

No. 201.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 559.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 11, 1878.

VICE-CONSUL at Rodosto writes that Christian bands are still destroying Mussulman villages and massacring their inhabitants. At Sariar, thirty-one persons were killed and fourteen wounded. Of 200 persons flying from Mustegel, all were massacred except two. Cannot the Russians be persuaded to prevent a state of things for which they are entirely responsible, and which may lead hereafter to terrible retaliation?

No. 202.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878, 3 15 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 552 of the 8th instant, you may assure the Sultan that our advice and help will be most willingly given to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, as requested by His Majesty.

No. 203.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 713.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878.

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 552 of the 8th instant, I have to request you to convey to His Majesty the Sultan the assurance of Her Majesty's Government that their advice and help will be most cordially and willingly accorded to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin, in conformity with the desire which His Majesty expressed to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 204.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 714.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878.

I HAVE received and read with much interest your Excellency's despatch No. 650, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, reporting your conversation with Prince Lobanoff, the newly-appointed Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

It is a source of great satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government to learn that such a frank interchange of views has taken place between Prince Lobanoff and yourself; and I have to express to your Excellency my approval of the language held by you on this occasion and of the manner in which you responded to the conciliatory advances made by the Russian Ambassador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 205.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 715.)
Sir *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 643 of the 18th instant, relative to the endeavours now being made for the pacification of the Island of Crete, and I have to express to you my approval of your having urged upon Sadyk Pasha that

Hamik Boy and Hassan Effendi, two persons stated to be fomentors of disorders, should be removed from the island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 206.

Lord Tenterden to Sir J. Kennaway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, inclosing a Memorial by the Armenians resident in England relative to the sufferings of their fellow-countrymen in Turkish Armenia; and I am to inform you that this matter will receive the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 207.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Browning.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, relative to the proposed addition to Turkish Customs dues in order to provide relief for the refugees in Constantinople; and I am to inform you in reply that his Lordship has instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador in that city, by telegraph, to report without delay how this matter stands at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 208.

Lord Tenterden to the Duke of Sutherland.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, for your Grace's information, a copy of a report addressed by Major de Winton to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the coal mines at Heraclea.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 209.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 46. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, May* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Mirdite chieftain, Prenk Bib Doda, having made his submission, has arrived in Scutari, and been treated with great consideration by the Governor-General.

Hussein Pasha has received a report from Podgoritza that the Montenegrins have erected batteries around that place, and that there are eight guns in them.

I purpose starting for Cettigné early to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* No.

No. 208*.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Churchill.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1878.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State to request you to draw up and forward to this Office, as soon as you conveniently can, a Report of any observations you may have made in the course of your journey to this country from Persia, and which you may think likely to be of interest to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 210.

Memorial from the Greek Inhabitants of the Province of Philippopoli.—(Communicated by M. Delyanni, June 12.)

Excellence, *Constantinople, le* $\frac{4}{17}$ *Mai*, 1878.

LES soussignés, représentants permanents à Constantinople des Grecs de la province de Philippopolis, ont l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence les faits ci-après.

Depuis l'occupation militaire de la Thrace par l'armée Russe, la population Grecque de cette contrée est soumise à des vexations sans nombre, ayant toutes pour but, soit de faire émigrer les anciens habitants de ce pays, soit de les contraindre à reconnaître une nationalité qui ne fut jamais la leur.

Ainsi, tout dernièrement l'autorité Russe a fait subir la conscription, malgré leurs énergiques protestations, à un grand nombre de Grecs de la Thrace occidentale, sous prétexte qu'ils sont Bulgares ou d'origine Bulgare.

Notre devoir de représentants nous oblige à protester contre des telles mesures, dont l'arbitraire et l'injustice ne manqueront pas de frapper votre Excellence ainsi que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes, auquel nous vous prions de vouloir bien transmettre nos justes réclamations, et dont nous implorons pour nos compatriotes la haute et bienveillante protection.

Nous avons, &c.
(Signé) A. PSICHARI.
B. SARAKIOTI.

No. 211.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, June 12.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{19}{31}$ *Mai*, 1878.

FAISANT suite à mes précédentes communications, je m'empresse de vous informer que, d'après les renseignements qui me sont parvenus, une tentative de colonisation de Circassions a eu lieu dans l'Ile de Simi, mais les habitants les ont repoussés, et il paraît que cette même tentative se reproduira dans l'Ile de Cassos. Vous savez que les Iles Sporades sont exclusivement habités par des Grecs et que la presque totalité des habitants de Cassos sont des sujets Hellènes.

A votre première entrevue avec le Marquis de Salisbury, je vous prie d'attirer l'attention de son Excellence sur ces mesures, dont la réalisation ferait naître les plus graves inconvénients.

D'après votre dernier rapport, son Excellence avait promis d'écrire à Mr. Layard au sujet de la colonisation des Circassiens à Chypres. Mais son Excellence ne paraissait pas convaincu de l'imminence du danger. J'espère que cette nouvelle circonstance aura pour résultat de hâter les démarches que son Excellence croira convenable de prescrire au Représentant de la Reine à Constantinople dans l'intérêt de l'humanité et de la civilisation.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) TH. DELYANNI.

No. 212.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 59. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, June* 2, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54, Political, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, on the 28th, having communicated to Hussein Pasha the substance of the telegram, of which the inclosed is a copy, and in which M. Duby informs me of the continued pacific disposition of Prince Nicholas, and having repeated to his Excellency most of my arguments in favour of not creating difficulties for the Turkish Government in these regions, I found his Excellency much more inclined to act calmly. Next day the receipt of a telegram from Mr. Layard announcing that orders had been sent to the Pasha not to stir up questions on the Montenegrin frontier, afforded me an explanation of the Commander's altered behaviour.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

I regret, however, to have to report that the inflammatory instructions sent to the different districts of the Vilayet to hold their inhabitants ready for a resumption of hostilities, have resulted in an act of fanaticism at Tirana, where a Moslem Dervish from Dibra killed, with his revolver in the Bazaar, the Orthodox Greek priest of the place. The murderer has been arrested, and the authorities state that he is mad; but it is a pity that these Dervishes are with difficulty admitted to be insane until they have committed some outrage. The one specially in question might have secured for himself the attention of the authorities earlier, as last year he attempted the murder of a Christian at Podgoritza.

The Mahommedan Committee of Public Safety, mentioned in my despatch No. 55, Political, of the 27th ultimo, continued all last week to forward Christian prisoners to Scutari, but the evening before last I succeeded in inducing Hussein Pasha to make a personal inquiry into the accusations against them, and his Excellency then found that they had been arrested on vague suspicions; he therefore ordered their release on bail, and I dare say he will, in a few days, permit them to return to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 212.

M. Duby to Consul Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le 27 Mai*, 1878, 10·40 A.M.

REÇU dépêche du 25 courant. Quant aux canons à Dinoche vous pouvez rassurez son Excellence. Lors l'invasion de cette localité le Voïvode Vucovitch y avait en effet amené une batterie qui a été ensuite retirée; une seule pièce de quatre avait été laissé avec six artilleurs. Ceux-ci étant partis depuis plusieurs semaines la pièce reste seule, mais puisque elle donne lieu à des enquiétudes elle sera enlevée demain. Quant au poste de Mumichich il n'y restera que vingt à trente hommes.

Voïvode Verbitza surchargé d'occupations, mais aussitôt délivré il sera à la disposition de son Excellence, pour le cas où il y aura des affaires à traiter, partout où le Gouverneur voudra, même à Scutari. Prince a vivement regretté le malentendu.

No. 213.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 478.)
My Lord, *Paris, June 11, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, set out on the evening of the 9th instant for Berlin, in order to take part, as first Plenipotentiary for France, in the Congress about to be held in that capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 214.

Consul Churchill to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *London, June 12, 1878.*

IN compliance with the request contained in Lord Tenterden's despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that a few days previous to my quitting Resht for this country my attention was drawn by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran to the report of a special mission that was said to have been confided to General Tchernaieff on the shores of the Caspian.

The information that I was enabled to gather at Resht on this subject (and I may here observe that Resht is about the last place where any information of a political nature can be obtained) was to the effect that nothing had transpired with regard to the arrival in those parts of any general officer; and that, far from anything being contemplated by the Russian Government on the shores of the Caspian, the whole of

the ports on that sea, from Astrakan to Ashurada, had been denuded of their usual garrisons.

The above statement was confirmed by the captain of the steamer that conveyed me to Afsheran, the station selected by the Russian authorities for the performance of quarantine; but there (at Afsheran) I learned for the first time that towards the 20th May two Russian officers of rank had arrived at Bakou from St. Petersburgh, and had immediately proceeded in a Government dispatch boat in the direction of Asterabad. Their mission was secret, and they travelled in plain clothes without any retinue, and one of the two belonged to the Topographical Department.

On the 24th May it was further reported at Afsheran that twenty-four transports were being got ready at Nijni Novgorod, to convey troops, consisting principally of cavalry, to the Caspian. The destination of these troops was unknown, nor was their numerical force mentioned, but Krasnavodsk and Asterabad were hinted at. It was difficult to learn anything more on this head at Afsheran, and I may here observe that it is not an easy matter for an Englishman, and more particularly an English Consul, to gather any reliable information on such matters, the suspicion with which we are looked upon is so great.

At Derbend I learned that the mountaineers of Daghistan, who, eight or ten months ago, had raised the standard of revolt, and had been put down with a high hand by the Russians, had recently shown signs of a fresh rising. Everything appeared, however, quiet in that neighbourhood when I passed.

At the mouth of the Volga, where it was natural I should obtain more precise information, I was assured that the expedition down the Volga was to consist of 120,000 men, who were to be concentrated, to begin with, at Petrovsk, and were subsequently to proceed to Krasnavodsk, with a view to menacing our Indian frontier by the Atrek. It was further stated that General Lamakin, who is in command at Krasnavodsk, was to be superseded.

Troops were already in readiness at the mouth of the Volga, and the steamer that brought us there was immediately commissioned to convey 500 men to Petrovsk.

On our way to Astrakan we passed a steamer full of troops, going down the river, and at Tcharitzin I learned that troops were also expected by rail, in addition to those going down from Nijni. It was difficult to ascertain the numerical force of this expedition, but it was thought that the report spread at the mouth of the Volga was exaggerated.

Between Tcharitzin and Grazie, we met a large convoy of recruits proceeding southward; they were without officers, all very young, and were said to be destined to fill up the gaps made by disease in the ranks of the Russian army in Armenia.

This is about all I was enabled to observe with reference to the movement of Russian troops in the Caspian on my way home.

Now it is not improbable that, considering the attitude of Her Majesty's Government latterly, Russia may have entertained a notion of occupying our attention in the direction of our Afghan frontier in India. Not having any personal acquaintance with the country lying between Krasnavodsk and Herat, I should be diffident in giving an opinion on the chances of success an expedition would have operating in those desolate regions. The Russians have learned by this time the difficulties attending the transport of even a small body of men over the steppes lying between the Caspian and Central Asia. The only likely road to follow, taking Krasnavodsk as the base of operations, would, perhaps, be to strike the Atrek at a point in the vicinity of Avret Kala, and thence to march towards Boujnoud and Meshed, along the Persian frontier. Several distinguished officers of Her Majesty's army have been over this ground, and they would be more competent than I to offer an opinion on the subject.

I found the people in Russia under the impression that the mere menace of an expedition against India would suffice to create a perturbation in the minds of the natives of India highly detrimental to our interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. A. CHURCHILL.

No. 215.

Mr. Montefiore and Baron de Worms to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June* 12.)

London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews,
36, *Finsbury Circus, E.C., June* 11, 1878.

My Lord,

WE have the honour to hand you herewith (in triplicate) an Address from the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association to Earl Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Britannic Majesty's Ministers Plenipotentiary at the Congress at Berlin, begging that the status of the Jews in the Turkish provinces may be seriously considered at the approaching Congress.

Having regard to the urgent and important nature of the matter, we beg to ask that your Lordship will kindly transmit two of the accompanying copies of the address without delay to Earl Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury, the third copy being sent for your Lordship's use at the Foreign Office.

We have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MONTEFIORE.
HENRY DE WORMS.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Address.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Beaconsfield, and to the Most Noble the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Britannic Majesty's Special Envoys and Ministers Plenipotentiary at the Congress of Berlin.

London, June 12, 1878.

My Lords,

WE, the Undersigned, respectively Presidents of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews, and of the Anglo-Jewish Association, relying on the sympathy with which Her Majesty's Government have at all times honoured our representations, venture to solicit your Lordships' attention to the urgent necessity for definitely securing complete equality before the law to the various populations of the several provinces which have hitherto constituted, or been connected with, European Turkey, and have been materially affected by the war, so that none of the inhabitants of such provinces may be subjected in any degree whatsoever to civil and political disabilities on the ground of their religious belief. The necessity for removing, at the present juncture, every vestige of the civil and political disqualifications of the subject is illustrated by the course and the effect of legislation in Roumania and in Servia. These provinces, being inhabited by populations of different races, include large numbers of our co-religionists, whose welfare, like that of the followers of other creeds, depends on a satisfactory settlement of the all-important question—the perfect equality before the law.

Owing to inadequate provisions made in the Treaty of Paris in 1856 (Articles XX to XXX), and in the Convention of Paris, 1858 (which declared in Article XLVI: "Tous les Moldaves-Valaques sont égaux devant la loi, devant l'impôt, et tous également admissibles aux emplois publics. Les Moldaves et les Valaques de tous les rites Chrétiens jouiront également des droits politiques. La jouissance de ces droits pourra être étendue aux autres cultes par des dispositions législatives") the concession of equality to the Jews inhabiting Roumania was wholly left to the discretion of the Roumanian Chambers.

Successive legislative enactments of those Chambers have unfortunately tended to deteriorate the position of the Jewish residents in that country, whose number amounts to 250,000 souls; and, in consequence of the several intolerant proceedings numerous acts of persecution have taken place, as is attested by the Reports published under the auspices of Her Majesty's Government in the Blue Books of 1867-76.

With regard to the statements set forth in those Reports, we venture to remind your Lordships that the laws of Roumania have placed the vast majority of native Jews in the position of aliens, and have caused large numbers to be victims of notorious outrages amidst populations who, in former times, were accustomed to treat our co-religionists with the consideration due to fellow-countrymen.

Under these circumstances we appeal to your Lordships to employ your powerful influence in such a direction as to obtain all public rights for the Jews in Roumania,

No. 219[a].

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Sturge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 30th June last, I am directed by the Secretary of State to acquaint you that the Russian Government have informed Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that, according to information received from the Russian General Staff, it appears that there are no schools nor homes under the direction of Mr. Long in the district of Bazardjik.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

Servia, Bulgaria, and the other provinces which may be affected by the issues of the war; for we hold, in common with our fellow-subjects, that by placing the followers of different creeds on the level of perfect equality, all pretexts for oppression and for acts of intolerance must yield to a sense of amity and mutual good-will.

In conclusion, we respectfully express our earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government, which your Lordships so powerfully represent at the Congress, will succeed, as it succeeded at other eventful periods of history, in establishing, on a firm basis, and irrespective of creed, the social, civil, and political rights of the different nationalities in the East.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MONTEFIORE, *President of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.*
HENRY DE WORMS, *President of the Anglo-Jewish Association.*

No. 216.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 562.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 11, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Captain Fife:—

"Large bands of Bulgarians and Greeks have arrived within forty miles of Drama."

No. 217.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 12, 1878.*

ORDERS for partial mobilization signed yesterday. Details when obtained.

No. 218.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 563.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 12, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL CALVERT at Adrianople reports, on the 9th, that the insurgents have been everywhere successful in repulsing the Russians; that the Bulgarian population is much alarmed at their progress; and that the Russians appear to recognize hopelessness of obtaining any decided advantage without disproportionate sacrifice, but would be glad to come to terms with the insurgents, who are unwilling to do so.

No. 219.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 564.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 554, Grand Vizier has requested me to ask your Lordship's advice as to whether the Porte should accept the Convention proposed by Roumania.

No. 220.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, June 12, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,* relative to the delay of the Porte in the ratification of the concession granted to the Eastern Telegraph Company.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 221.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 335.) *Rome, June 10, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a note from M. Cairoli acquainting me that by a Decree dated the 8th instant, His Majesty the King had been pleased to confide to him, during the absence of Count Corti, the interim of the Department for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 222.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 480.) *Paris, June 12, 1878.*

My Lord,

AT the audience which I had of the Shah of Persia this afternoon His Majesty begged me to express strongly to your Lordship his hope and expectation that the interests of Persia, and especially her interests with regard to her Turkish frontier, would be supported by the British Plenipotentiaries at the Congress at Berlin.

His Majesty said, that when the war broke out between Russia and Turkey, the British Minister at Teheran had strongly urged him, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, to remain neutral, and to abstain from taking any step injurious to Turkey.

In deference to this advice, and from a desire to obtain the sympathy and good-will of the British Government and people, the Shah had, His Majesty said, resolutely abstained from taking advantage of the numerous opportunities which had presented themselves of settling the frontier questions in a manner advantageous to Persia. Bagdad had, he said, been left without a Turkish regiment, nay, without a Turkish soldier, the population had made overtures to him, and he might have sent his troops across the frontier without any fear of their encountering a serious resistance. It was solely from sympathy with England, and from regard for Her Majesty's Government, that he had refrained from effecting by his own means a thoroughly satisfactory settlement of the frontier questions; and he was confident that Her Majesty's Government would not allow him to be a loser by his deference to their counsels. He begged me to state this very clearly to your Lordship, and to do so without any delay.

The Shah observed, in conclusion, that his whole reliance was upon England, that no other European Power took any real interest in the welfare of Asia, and that he should always be disposed to follow any advice which he might receive from the Queen or from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

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* See Part XXV, Nos. 653 and 742; and *infra*, No. 132.

No. 223.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 565.) *Therapia, June 12, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Gallipoli to-day:—

"Russians passing Rodosto and Chorlu towards Adrianople and Keshan, the latter probably for Gumurgina. This is confirmed by intelligence from other quarters."

No. 224.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 566.) *Therapia, June 13, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

ADMIRAL HORNBY informs me that, in pursuance of instructions from home, he will move squadron shortly to Princes Islands. Has an understanding been come to between Her Majesty's Government and Russian Government on the subject, and am I to make any communication in regard to it to the Porte?

No. 225.

Mr. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

Ragusa, June 13, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

TROOPS in Dalmatia are being placed on a war footing, and will be ready to march in a week.

No. 226.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 716.) *Foreign Office, June 13, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 682 of the 27th ultimo, reporting the representations made to you by two Mussulman gentlemen, in the name of the Mahommedans of Serres, with regard to their determination not to submit to Bulgarian rule, and I have to express to you my approval of the terms in which your Excellency replied to this deputation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 227.

Mr. Cross to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 14.) *Foreign Office, June 13, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE to express to you my approval of your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 47, Political, of the 21st ultimo, with a view to remove mutual distrust between the Albanians and Montenegrins, and to contribute to prevent hostilities between the Turkish and Montenegrin troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 228.

Mr. Cross to Consul Reade.

(No. 1. Political.)

Foreign Office, June 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 8, Political, of the 25th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a telegram from certain Circassian Chiefs at Denizli, offering to Her Majesty's Government the services of 1,000 volunteers, and I have in reply to request you to inform those Chiefs that Her Majesty's Government, whilst thanking them for the offer, have no occasion to avail themselves of it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 229.

Mr. Cross to Count Menabrea.

Foreign Office, June 13, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

WITH reference to the letter which I did myself the honour to address to your Excellency on the 22nd ultimo respecting the rumoured prohibition by the Russian authorities of the export of grain from Toultcha, and other matters, I have now the honour to state to your Excellency that, according to information which Her Majesty's Government have recently received, this rumour is confirmed, and that the prohibition, with the exception of a small quantity of grain, the proceeds of the collection of the tithes, appears to have taken effect from the 25th March last.

As regards the collection by the Russians of taxes at Toultcha, Her Majesty's Government have been informed that a tax is being collected of 1 fr. for each small vessel, and 20 paras per ton for those of larger tonnage, loading at that place, which was stated to be levied ostensibly for a Bill of Health, or Visa, and on the assumption that the Porte formerly levied the same tax in accordance with the rules of the Commissioners. The Danube Commission, it is stated, is expecting a full report on the subject.

At Sulina a tax also appears to be levied by the Russian authorities which is said to have formed the subject of a representation by the Executive Committee of the Danube Commission.

In regard to the alleged impediments to the navigation of the Pruth, it is stated that three bridges have been erected on that river by the Russians, and though no complaints have been made to the Commission on the subject, the Russian authorities appeared to be taking measures to prevent any obstructions arising to the navigation from the erection of these bridges, or to remove such as may exist, and the Pruth Commission had requested that the matter might be seen to without delay.

In sending such information as he was able to procure on the above points, Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz explains that in his opinion the rise in freight might be accounted for by the great demand for barges on the Danube and the shortness of the supply. The navigation of the Pruth being always more difficult and uncertain than that of the Danube, so long as full occupation can be found for barges on the Danube at high freights, owners will be unwilling to employ them on the Pruth.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 230.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1. Special Congress.)

Berlin, June 13, 1878.

Sir,

I RECEIVED to-day your telegraphic despatch of this date inquiring whether Her Majesty's Government have come to any understanding with that of Russia respecting the movement of Her Majesty's fleet from its present anchorage to Prince's Islands.

As your Excellency is aware, the movement is contemplated on purely sanitary

grounds; and should an opportunity occur, you should so inform the Porte and the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

The matter was explained to Count Schouvaloff some time ago.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 231.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 75. Political.)

Trebizond, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

DR. ROY, of the "Red Crescent," has been kind enough to give me the following information:—

When he left Erzeroum on the 22nd May the Russian troops consisted of the remainder of the 39th Division, one company of Sappers, the remainder of the 1st Regiment of the Dragoons; in all numbering about 4,000 men.

At Hassan Kaleh there are said to be about 8,000 men, and at Dove-Bognoo, on the site of the Turkish camp of last year, is stationed one regiment of Cossacks. In several of the villages on the plain a few men still remain, mostly belonging to the commissariat, but Ilidja is entirely deserted, owing to the great amount of mortality which occurred there. In Erzeroum itself a great amount of sickness still exists amongst the Russian troops, mostly typhus, intermittent fever, and chronic diarrhœa, and the death-rate is still very high; there are four large hospitals, besides several smaller ones, all of which are full. As soon as the men are able to be removed they are sent on to Gumri.

Amongst the inhabitants no epidemic seems at present to exist. A Sanitary Commission has been sent from Tiflis, and are doing their best to disinfect the grave-yards, and no one is allowed to be buried within the ramparts.

Good feeling appears to exist between the Russians and the inhabitants of the town, and good order is kept, the streets being patrolled night and day by small parties of dragoons.

Very few Turkish soldiers remain in the town, only those connected with the Russian public offices and the hospital, which contains only 230 sick in charge of two medical men, the remainder of the staff having gone to Erzinghian.

The Turks still have a large part of their guns in the town, those only having been removed which were in the forts of Azizié, Kirenitli, and Medjidieh.

The greater part of the heavy guns, of which many are Krupps, still remain on the ramparts, but are dismounted from their carriages, whilst many smaller guns are stored in the old Armenian church, where there is also much ammunition, as well as in the various magazines on the ramparts, which are carefully guarded by a Russian sentinel.

The Russians only have a battery of field-guns. At Baiboort Dr. Roy found about 4,000 Turkish troops stationed there; they were busily engaged in drilling and making preparations for fortifying the town.

About forty heavy guns, which had been abandoned last winter, in the vicinity of Zigana Dagh, are now removed to Baiboort.

In the various khans along the road of Erzeroum are stationed a few soldiers, but at Kop Khan there are about 200, and a battery of field artillery. At Pirna-Kapan there was one regiment, but half were under orders for Erzinghian and the remainder for Baiboort.

Last year quantities of cases of munitions were sent to different points on the coast, Lurmeneh, Rizeh, Vona, Tiripoli, &c., to be forwarded from thence to Erzeroum, which place many of these cases had never reached, having been abandoned by the muleteers in different villages along the roads.

I learn now from Turkish officers that active researches are made for these munitions, which are sent to Baiboort as soon as they are recovered.

Several cases having been lost, the muleteers were compelled to indemnify the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 232.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 76. Political.)
Trebizond, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I LEARN from a source in which I can place reliance, that the object of the Commissioners sent by the Porte to Batoum seems to be to prevent by all means a collision between the Laz and the Russians, so as to avoid the complications which might follow at Constantinople.

General Komaroff appears to have evacuated Artwin only temporarily, at the urgent request of Dervish Pasha, who, on hearing of a few thousand armed Laz moving towards Livanah, dispatched in great haste three battalions of regulars to restrain them, and Moustafa Pasha to induce the Russians to retreat.

They did so, leaving two companies in the town, and taking such positions as will allow them to occupy it again without difficulty.

The Laz, not being satisfied with the present state of things at Batoum, have addressed, on the $\frac{17}{29}$th instant, to the Commissioners of the Porte, a very strong protest, which I transmit herewith inclosed, in copy and translation, for your Lordship's information.

The attitude assumed by the Laz in this protest towards the Porte, and certain verbal reports which I have heard from Batoum, strengthen my opinion that they, as well as the populations of the adjoining districts, are ripe for the scheme of forming an independent State.

I am assured by a person who came to-day from Batoum, and had the means to ascertain the intentions of the Ottoman authorities there, that the conduct followed by the Commissioners is due to the Turks not feeling certain that they will be supported by Great Britain against Russia, but that they have no idea of giving up Batoum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Protest handed to the Commissioners of the Porte at Batoum.

(Translation.)

BY the Treaty of San Stefano, Batoum and its district having been ceded to Russia, and the Turkish Government having since done nothing on our behalf, we, inhabitants of the said district, could no longer consider ourselves to be subjects of the Porte, a circumstance which gave us the right to appeal to another Power to support our cause. Faithful to the resolution which we have come to, we will defend our country until Europe decides the question concerning us. We heard, in the meantime, that you have been appointed by the Porte as Commissioners, for the purpose of coming to an understanding with Russian Commissioners; the public opinion being that you intend to give up Batoum to the Russians, the whole population is in great anxiety. Although a few days ago the Russians began to evacuate Artwin. General Komaroff is still there with two companies, and we even hear that the troops which left intend to occupy again the town; for these motives our apprehensions increase daily.

Should Batoum be given up to Russia before an agreement is come to by Europe on the subject, we will, as good patriots, sacrifice our lives for the defence of our native soil, and we have taken up arms, to die with honour rather than live dishonoured.

Those amongst us who have no arms will use axes, sticks, their nails even, to oppose Russian invasion, and die gallantly.

We have endeavoured to convey the conviction that nothing will divert us from our resolution.

We leave to Russia the responsibility of all the blood which may be shed, we confide to the Ottoman Government the care to bury our dead, to Great Britain and to the other Powers of Europe to revenge us, and to the compassion of the Mussulmans in India our fatherless and motherless children.

Protesting by these presents against the Russian and Turkish Governments, we ask that the Russians should not step on our soil, that they should depart from Artwin, if not, we will fight them, leaving on them all responsibility.

We ask that copies of the present protest be communicated to the Porte, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Russia, and to the Governments of England, France, Italy, Germany, and Austria, as well as to General Komaroff, at Livanah.

Batoum, May $\frac{17}{29}$, 1878.

The representatives of the population,
(Signed) OSMAN (Pasha).
HUSSEIN KEVNIK.
HUSSEIN HUSNI.
YAHIA SEID.
HASSAN RIGA.
AHMED HULUSSI.
ISMAIL MUSTAFA KIANI.
ALI RUSHDI.
AKIF MUHAMMED.
MEHMED SADI.
YUSSUF FEHMED.

No. 233.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 77. Political.)
Trebizond, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that 155 Christian Abajians, who were at Samsoon, embarked on board the Turkish steamer "Batoum," and passed here on the 25th instant on their way to the port of the same name and Russia.

They were conveyed in the same steamer to the Russian camp; but no orders having been received to allow them to pass, these unfortunate people, I have heard this day, are on the sea-shore wishing to leave Turkey, and not being admitted in Russia.

As they had no means of subsistence when they passed here, rations, I presume, are issued to them at the camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 234.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 13, 1878.

I HAVE at last arranged Eastern Telegraph Company Convention. Line will be opened immediately.

No. 235.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(Telegraphic.)
Washington, June 13, 1878.

IT seems certain that Russian agents have purchased a fourth steamer, the "Niagara," described in the inclosure in my despatch No. 112 of 20th April last.

No. 236.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June* 14.)

Berlin, June 14, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINT Mr. Layard's despatch No. 713, "Return of Commissioners sent to the pacification of the Pomaks," immediately for Parliament, and lay it, if Sir S. Northcote and Mr. Cross do not object.

No. 237.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 568.)

Therapia, June 14, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Gallipoli yesterday:—

"On the 15th instant 4,000 men and twenty-four cannon were at Mustafa, and about to march against Yeri insurgents. Large Russian forces have entered Mountains of Philibe. Insurgents have little ammunition remaining."

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Cross.—(*Received June* 14, 2 P.M.)

Berlin, June 14, 1878, 11·40 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent the following to Lyons to-day:—

"Explain to Shah that it was intimated to Her Majesty's Government that he wished to remain *incognito*, and that, in deference to his wish, had given up all idea of receiving him. Now Queen has made her arrangements, which will not permit her to have that pleasure. Put message in as acceptable terms as possible, and assure the Shah that we will not forget his interests if the question of frontier should come before the Congress."

No. 239.

Lord Tenterden to the London Committee of British Jews.

Foreign Office, June 14, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State to acknowledge the receipt of your letter inclosing an address to the Earl of Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury in favour of the Jews in the Turkish provinces; and I am to acquaint you that the duplicate copies of this address have been forwarded to their Lordships at Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 240.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 60. Political.)

Canea, Crete, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the postscript to my despatch No. 56 which I had the honour to write to your Lordship on the 18th instant, I mentioned the destruction wrought in certain villages by the irregulars who had followed in the wake of the army which had occupied them. The day after those disgraceful scenes had occurred Salih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, accompanied by a certain Hamid Bey, the Mussulman Counsellor, went to inspect the ruined villages, and he told me that the damage done by the insurgents previously to the capture of the villages by his troops was fourfold greater than that done by the Bashi-Bazouks. I could not quite reconcile this statement with the fact that the Christian population of the desolated district was about two-thirds greater

than the Mussulman, and I determined to verify the matter by a personal inspection, an intention I had not time to carry out till yesterday.

The first village I visited was Alikianu, where there are eighty Christian houses and nine Mussulman. There was not a single house that was not more or less injured. I went round the village in the company of several Christians and one Mussulman, the proprietor of one of the ruined houses, and the only Mussulman inhabitant who happened to be in the village at the time, and I accepted no statement that was not corroborated by him. He had been absent, like the rest of the Moslem inhabitants, for four months before the capture of the place, and he told me that he and the other Moslem families had taken away all their portable property, and in many cases even the doors and windows, before leaving. The Christians had very generally taken the same precaution a day or two before its occupation, so that much of the damage committed was more apparent than real.

The flooring, cupboards, and other household fixtures had been torn away; the stone facings of some doors and windows had been broken, but in most cases the rafters of the roofs were uninjured, and the walls were left standing. The most costly part of a peasant's house is the timber, stone, lime, and labour costing comparatively little. The property of the greatest value in the village consisted in the air presses, the millstones used for crushing the olives, costing from 20*l.* to 30*l.* a-piece. There were only two of these belonging to the Christians which escaped destruction, while the Moslems had only three ruined. Of churches there were three, all of which were partially destroyed, by which I mean the woodwork and pictures had been smashed to pieces, the walls and roofs being intact. The tombs outside the churches had in all cases been opened, but the bones had not been thrown about. The stench arising from some of the graves and respect for the dead had prompted the relatives, who had begun to return, to repair them, but during the night some miscreants opened the tombs again, which are usually covered with large flagstones cemented with lime.

Not altogether crediting this statement, I questioned the officer of police stationed there, who did not attempt to deny the fact, but stated that his men were unable to prevent it. Of the Moslem houses ruined, the Christians of Alikianu pleaded guilty to destroying only three, declaring that the rest had been gutted by the Bashi-Bazouks, who, being strangers to the place, could not distinguish between the property belonging to the two communities. This statement I had nothing but their word to vouch for, and therefore reject it as being in itself improbable.

I next proceeded to the village of Kofas. It contains seventeen Mussulman and thirteen Christian houses, all of which were more or less injured, but the former had more property here and better houses, and seem to have been the greater sufferers.

At Patalaria, the next village on my road, there were seven Christian houses of small value ruined, and two Moslem farmsteads with substantial buildings, where the destruction was less complete than in the other villages. The millstones were split by fire; and it was clear that the proprietors had lost more than the Christians.

From Patalaria I rode to Vryses, a village containing sixty-five Christian and fifteen Moslem houses. There had been most ruthless destruction here. The people had taken no part in the insurrection, and when the Mussulman inhabitants left, carrying with them all their moveable property and doors and windows, they had lent them their mules to aid in the work of transport. They confessed that three of the fugitives' houses had been destroyed by the insurgents, which I visited as well as several others which had not been injured.

Before the troops arrived these people had sent a petition to the Vali protesting their fidelity to the Government and claiming protection, and his Excellency wrote to reassure them, declaring they were safe. The irregulars lost no time in committing all the havoc they could, tearing down the woodwork of the houses, and entering the cellars, smashed the large stone jars containing oil and broke open the large hogsheads of wine. Several cellars thus treated I entered. There were four churches in this village, one a really handsome structure, of which nothing was left but the bare walls and roofs, while the tombs in the graveyards had been opened.

I may remark that neither at Vryses nor in any other ruined village does any mosque exist, so that the desecration of churches and graves was not directly provoked by similar acts perpetrated by the Christians, and in no case throughout the island have I heard of sacrilege committed in Turkish cemeteries. The Christians in Vryses had been incomparably the greater sufferers, but I observed no very substantial houses.

The last village I inspected was Modi, containing thirty-two Christian and twenty-five Mussulman houses, not one of which had been spared. There were two very handsome houses, belonging to Moslems, which had been utterly ruined, the walls alone standing. The proprietor of one of them had made himself extremely obnoxious to the Christians in an official position he held in Canea, and hence he was one of the first objects of their spite. These two houses must have been worth all the houses of the Christians put together. The churches here, as elsewhere, were destroyed.

On the whole it appeared to me that throughout the ruined district the Christians had been the greater sufferers, owing to the circumstance that they had not had time to carry away their oil, wine, and household stuffs, and this was more particularly the case in the five villages outside the military cordon, which had been overrun by the armed irregulars, but which I had not time to visit. As the Vali remarked to Salih Pasha in my presence, in talking of these scandalous occurrences, the Bashi-Bazouks had been the aggressors by pillaging several months ago the villages near Canea. The fugitives had taken refuge in villages further off, and had doubtless perpetrated acts of reprisal there. When the Turkish troops advanced their outposts early in April, one village (Stalos) was entirely, and others were partially plundered, and a further crowd of fugitives from them contributed to the work of destruction in more distant places.

The tidings of these events had the effect of inflaming the passions of the insurgents throughout the district of Kissamos, and, to a less extent, in Selino. The whole disgraceful series of reprisals can be directly traced to the arming and employment by Samih Pasha of Bashi-Bazouks in January, who committed these deeds under the protection of the troops. In the district of Apokorona, where they have not yet entered, the Christians have done no injury to Moslem property. One exception to this statement I must make in the case of the village of Vamos, which was occupied by a battalion of regular troops. Before evacuating that village in March, they destroyed the house of every Christian in the place, ruined the two churches and school, and opened the graves. There had been no provocation to extenuate or explain this conduct, as no plundering had gone on in that district. As soon as the troops were fairly out of the place the insurgents retaliated by destroying all the houses of the Moslems, the Government offices, and the mosque.

I have learnt that an account of the proceedings above related was sent last week to the "Standard" newspaper by its correspondent here, which represents the part taken in them by the Christians in a much more unfavourable light. The gentleman who wrote that account, which I have not yet seen, wrote it in perfect good faith, and with every desire to be impartial, but as he is just arrived in the island, and knows not a word of either Turkish or Greek, it is not surprising if he should have been misinformed. He went over the villages in the company of Salih Pasha and several officials, and had no means of checking their statements, or of distinguishing between the houses belonging to the two communities, and no Christian durst have given evidence before such an audience. His informants had a direct interest, knowing he was a correspondent of an influential newspaper, in deceiving him, as well as every means of doing so, and few Turkish officials would be proof against making the most of such an opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S. *June* 1.—I have just learnt that many Christians from the ruined villages are committing acts of reprisal on the property of Moslems in other parts of Kissamos. This news makes me fear that the attempt to reconcile the two communities, in that district at least, is a work of insuperable difficulty, as the Mussulmans would return to find their farms in ruins.

No. 241.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 61. Political.)
Canea, Crete, June 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, having reference (1) to the attempt to bring about an understanding between

the Cretan insurgents and the Porte; (2) to my having been fired at by Turkish soldiers on my way to Fré in Apokorona; and (3) to the want of harmony existing between the civil and military authorities in Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 241.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Canea, Crete, June 1, 1878.

WHEN I set out last week for Fré in Apokorona, I had no sooner passed into the territory of the insurgents than the Turkish soldiers occupying the heights commanding the road, and known by the name of Palaio Castre, began firing upon us. The distance was considerable, perhaps about a mile, but every one of our little party heard the bullets whizzing past us, and we were glad to find ourselves before long sheltered from their flight by the brow of a hill. Knowing, from the constant complaints of the peasantry who pass along that road, that I might be fired at, I had taken the precaution, twenty-four hours before starting, to advise the Vali of my intended journey, and his Excellency furnished me with an escort of two mounted Zaptiés. These men had scarcely left me to return to Canea than the firing began. On my arrival at Fré I wrote to complain of this inhospitable treatment by the soldiers of the Government to which I was accredited, and Costaki Pasha expressed his extreme regret at the incident, informing me that he had immediately caused my letter to be read to Salih Pasha, who replied that, from inquiries he had made, it was the insurgents and not his troops who had fired upon me. The Vali, however, does not seem to have been satisfied with this excuse, which is too absurd to be entertained for a moment, the shots having been fired from behind us, where soldiers were posted, for his Excellency assured me that steps should be taken for the discovery and punishment of the guilty parties.

I did not report this incident last week, being desirous of affording the military authorities time and opportunity to give me some sort of satisfaction, however trifling, for the affront put upon me, but finding it is evidently their intention to take no more notice of the affair, I trust your Excellency will not think me unreasonable in bringing the matter to your notice.

Costaki Pasha told me that the peaceable peasantry came to complain to him every day of being exposed to this unprovoked firing, but that his remonstrances with Salih Pasha not having the effect of remedying the evil, it ended by the peasantry keeping away, and I have little doubt that many of them are thus driven to join the insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 241.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Canea, Crete, June 1, 1878.

IT has been for some time apparent that a want of harmony exists in the relations between the Vali of this island and the Commander-in-chief of the troops. The result has been the formation of two parties in the place, that of Salih Pasha comprising all that is retrograde and much that is disreputable, his Excellency being the intimate companion of the most unscrupulous member of the clique whose power is a force of constant quantity in local affairs, a certain Hassan Bey Cavouri, while Hamid Bey, the Mussulman Counsellor, throws the weight of his influence in the same scale. It is well known that Costaki Pasha is strongly opposed to the employment of the so-called Bashi-Bazouks, while Salih Pasha seems determined to retain their services. Costaki Pasha has always set his face against provoking fresh encounters with the insurgents, which, though they have been partially successful, have given more vitality to the insurrection, owing to the excesses indulged in by the irregulars

but his Excellency's better judgment has been overruled by Salih Pasha and his local allies. The Commander-in-chief was planning, the Vali now informs me, and as I had myself suspected, a fresh attack in Apokorona when the suspension of arms obtained by your Excellency put a stop to the scheme. Had it been carried out, it would have given a fatal blow to the plan of pacification formed by your Excellency. Salih Pasha, by holding himself entirely aloof from the Christian element of the population and frequenting the society of the most bigoted Mussulmans, is incapable of forming a sound estimate of the situation, and his opposition to the Vali is rapidly undermining the authority of the latter. The latest blow aimed at that authority was the liberation from prison of the malefactor Arapaki, who had headed the band at Rethymo which had murdered a party of Christians. Salih Pasha, notwithstanding his protestations to the contrary, had released him and his partners in crime, forty in number, from prison, and had brought him here; the Vali had insisted on his reimprisonment and was about to send him to Rethymo for trial, but was obliged to desist from his intention by intimidation. A few days ago he was let out of prison without the Pasha's knowledge, and his Excellency is obliged to brook the insult.

The Vali tells me that the constant intrigues of the Commander-in-chief and his unprincipled allies are rapidly rendering his position here untenable, and that he had begged the late Prime Minister to have his Excellency replaced by a Commander willing to carry out his orders and to co-operate heartily with him. He had recommended for the post a certain Salim Pasha, the Liva who commands in Candia, of whom Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherinos had reported to me a month ago that he was the only military Commander who had managed to gain the entire confidence of both communities. On a hint from Costaki Pasha he had succeeded in twenty-four hours in disarming all the irregulars of that town. His Excellency fears that the rank of Salim Pasha may be a bar to his appointment to such an important command, but rapid promotion has no lack of precedents in Turkey. Salih Pasha, being a Cretan by birth, lent himself too readily to the designs of local magnates such as Hamid Bey, while a stranger to the place such as Salim Pasha would not readily succumb to their influence.

I told Costaki Pasha that your Excellency had taken steps for the removal from the island of Hamid Bey and Hassan Bey Cavouri, but he had no knowledge of any order to that effect, nor did he seem to think that a man of Hamid Bey's influence could be exiled without considerable efforts being made in his favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 242.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 171. Confidential.)

Washington, June 3, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch No. 160 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it is almost certain that since that date Russian agents have bought at New York the steamer "Saratoga," of the line between that port and Havana. This vessel, which is of iron, was built by John Roach and Son, of Chester, and launched on the 22nd May, 1877. Her length is 292 feet, width 38 feet 5 inches, and depth 26 feet. She is said to be fast, and to average about fifteen knots an hour. She has been sent to Philadelphia to have the necessary alterations made in Cramp's ship-yard.

I understand that the formal sale of the "Columbus" has been made to Mr. Wharton Barker, of the firm of Barker, Brothers, and Co., of Philadelphia, bankers, who during the Exhibition of 1876 were employed by the Russian Commissioners in all their money matters. It is said that they are now charged with the payment of all the expenses incurred in the equipment of the lately-purchased steamers, and that they draw for this purpose on Baring Brothers, of London.

I have good reason to believe that the Russian agents are further contemplating the purchase of the "Niagara," also of the New York and Havana line, and now on a voyage between those ports, and of the "City of Washington," of the New York, Havana, and Mexican line, but the purchases have not yet been completed.

A large schooner laden with 500 tons of coal arrived at South West Harbour on the 28th ultimo, and proceeded to transfer her cargo to the "Cimbria."

On the 30th ultimo, one Russian officer, one warrant and one petty officer, and twelve seamen left the "Cimbria," proceeded to Portland by a passenger steamer, and thence to Philadelphia by railway. Rear-Admiral Gore-Jones informs me that they are engineers and mechanics, and are now employed in watching the placing of the engines on board the "State of California," so as to become thoroughly conversant with every part of them.

Her Majesty's Consul at Boston informs me that negotiations had been opened with the South Boston Company for the manufacture of ordnance for the Russian Government, but that no definite contract had as yet been made, the arrangement being subject to the receipt of orders from St. Petersburgh, which had not then arrived.

A secret agent who went over the works of Messrs. Alger and Company, of South Boston, which is, I presume, the firm to which Mr. Henderson alludes, states that the Russian agents had wished to obtain fifty 8-inch rifled guns, but that finding that they could not be ready for four months they declined completing the contract until they should receive orders from St. Petersburgh; the agent, however, added that they had actually bought six 10-inch smooth-bore guns, which were to be converted into 8-inch rifled guns.

Admiral Gore-Jones, however, who has recently visited these works, and has seen the six guns, believes that they actually belong to the United States' Government, are merely there to be converted into rifled guns, and could not have been sold to Russian agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 243.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 15.)

Sublime Porte, le 5 Juin, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à mes précédentes communications, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint, pour votre information, copie d'un rapport que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Photiades Bey concernant les préparatifs militaires de la Grèce.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Photiades Bey to Safvet Pasha.

Le 31 Mai, 1878.

LES préparatifs militaires se poursuivent en Grèce sans relâche et avec une activité toujours croissante, bien qu'avec moins d'ostentation qu'auparavant.

On est en train de former de nouveaux bataillons de tirailleurs, et on concentre des forces relativement considérables sur des points rapprochés de la frontière.

Comme on est presque à bout de ressources, le Gouvernement Hellénique prépare les voies à la conclusion d'un emprunt à l'étranger de 25,000,000 à 30,000,000 de francs. Des propositions de quelques banquiers lui seraient déjà faites à cet effet.

Tout cela s'explique par le sentiment général que la Grèce, dans le cas où ses aspirations d'agrandissement ne seraient pas satisfaites, devra se jeter de nouveau dans les aventures, et envahir les provinces limitrophes par une force imposante afin d'y créer une question Hellénique et provoquer l'intervention des Puissances Européennes dans un sens favorable à la cause des Hellènes.

Quelque absurde qu'il soit, ce sentiment ne fait que gagner du terrain, et est aujourd'hui partagé par tout le monde en Grèce.

Le Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre ayant demandé mon opinion sur la future attitude de la Grèce, je lui ai dit que l'idée qui y domine est, selon moi, de nature à m'inspirer de l'inquiétude, attendu qu'elle m'autorise à voir les Hellènes revenir à leurs entreprises hasardeuses et causer ainsi de nouveaux embarras aussi bien à nous

qu'aux Puissances Européennes. A ce propos, j'ai insinué à Mr. Wyndham que l'Angleterre seule pourrait contenir les Hellènes et arrêter le mal à son origine, en envoyant dans les principaux ports de la Grèce quelques cuirassés et en faisant pressentir qu'elle occuperait au besoin le Pirée. Mr. Wyndham m'a promis de communiquer à son Gouvernement ma manière de voir basée sur une longue expérience et sur une connaissance parfaite des hommes et des choses du pays.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 244.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 15.)

Sublime Porte, le 5 Juin, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information, une correspondance de Sérajévo concernant une tournée entreprise par le Conseil Britannique en cette ville, ainsi qu'une dépêche de son Excellence Essad Bey contenant une lettre de Cettigné relative à la situation du Monténégro.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 244.

Letter dated Serajevo, May 7, 1878.

(Traduction.)

IL y a trois semaines environ Mr. Freeman, Consul Anglais à Sérajévo, reçut de son Gouvernement l'ordre d'inspecter les nouvelles frontières fixées par le Traité de San Stefano entre la Serbie et le Monténégro et de rédiger un rapport à ce sujet.

Aux environs de Wisehgrad le Consul Anglais rencontra un gros de troupes Serbes qui occupent le territoire Ottoman entre Priboi et Nowo-Varosch. Le Commandant refusa de laisser passer le Consul avant l'arrivée d'une autorisation spéciale de Belgrade. Après avoir attendu vainement cette autorisation, Mr. Freeman préféra retourner à Priboi pour y traverser le Lim, et arriver à la petite ville de Pripolje, en suivant la rive gauche de cette rivière.

Comme résultat de son voyage, Mr. Freeman a écrit à son Gouvernement que les nouvelles frontières sont une honte, une monstruosité politique, que la route laissée aux Turcs près de Priboi est un second défilé de Duga, et qu'une poignée de Monténégrins suffirait pour la fermer complètement selon leur bon plaisir; en outre que la majorité de la population des districts cédés au Monténégro tels que Istchanitza, Plevolje, Vielepolje, Kolaschin appartient à la religion Musulmane, que les villages les plus considérables sont presque tous exclusivement Turcs; que dans ces districts il n'y a pas eu de soulèvement de Chrétiens contre les Turcs et qu'enfin jamais les Monténégrins n'ont conquis ou occupé un pouce de terrain dans ces contrées.

Il ne faut oublier non plus que la Conférence de Constantinople de 1876, si prodigue avec le territoire Ottoman, n'a accordé aux Monténégrins du côté du nord que Kolaschin.

L'impression que son excursion dans ces parages a laissée au Consul Anglais est que la population Musulmane à Fotscha et de Tuschlitza ne croit pas sérieusement à son annexion future au Monténégro. Ces braves gens ne savent peut-être pas que le Traité de San Stefano sera bientôt commenté à coups de canons mais on les entend souvent répéter: "La Drina et le Lim charrieront encore beaucoup d'eau avant que nous devenions Monténégrins." Il est certain que les Monténégrins, malgré leur rapacité, n'ont pas encore osé s'aventurer dans ces contrées.

Inclosure 2 in No. 244.

Essad Bey to Safvet Pasha.

Vienne, le 17 Mai, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre sous ce pli à votre Excellence la traduction d'une correspondance de Cettigné publiée par la "Politische Correspondenz," contenant quelques détails intéressants sur la situation au Monténégro.

Notre Consul-Général à Raguse m'écrit, de son côté, qu'un sourd mécontentement règne parmi les Monténégrins contre l'Autriche-Hongrie, qu'ils rendent en grande partie responsable des probabilités d'une rétrocession d'Antivari, qu'on dit devoir être imminente.

Je prie, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 244.

Extract from the "Politische Correspondenz."

(Traduction.) *Cettigné, le 3 Mai*, 1878.

A PEINE les Préliminaires de San Stefano étaient-ils signés que le prévoyant Prince Nikita mettait tout en œuvre pour obtenir le consentement de l'Autriche-Hongrie aux agrandissements de territoire promis au Monténégro.

Cette difficile mission fut confiée, comme on le sait, au Président du Sénat Bozo Petrovics, lequel, malgré un séjour de huit semaines à Vienne, ne parvint cependant pas à convaincre le Cabinet de Vienne de la nécessité de réunir au Monténégro les ports d'Antivari et de Dulcigno. L'insuccès de la mission Petrovics a été d'autant plus sensible ici qu'on sait que l'Italie se propose, le moment venu, de soulever des difficultés contre l'établissement du Monténégro aux bords de l'Adriatique. Si on ajoute que les populations, en majorité Catholiques, des bords de la mer ne montrent aucune inclination à embrasser l'indigénat Monténégrin et font au contraire toutes sortes de démonstrations contre une semblable éventualité, on comprendra facilement le découragement et l'irritation qui règnent ici.

Les relations entre Cettigné et Belgrade laissent également beaucoup à désirer. Autrefois, on mettait un grand empressement à Belgrade à faire des avances au Prince Nikita. Le Prince Milan, en manifestant ostensiblement ses sympathies pour les frères Monténégrins, voulait convaincre ainsi les Serbes de la communauté du but poursuivi par les deux nations. Autrefois parvenaient de Belgrade à Cettigné certains cadeaux très précieux pour lesquels les Monténégrins ont un goût très prononcé. Depuis quelque temps, ces relations se sont sensiblement refroidies, notamment depuis le moment où la Russie a de nouveau rendu à la Serbie sa protection et sa faveur. Il est remarquable qu'aujourd'hui la Russie met un prix tout particulier au maintien de relations intimes avec la Serbie, et qu'elle semble négliger dans la même mesure ses rapports avec le Monténégro.

No. 245.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 15.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, June 14*, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a letter dated the 26th ultimo, from the commanding officer of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," reporting the state of affairs at Karagatch, Cavalla, Dédéagatch, and Suola Bay.

2. I am to request that the inclosures, which are in original, may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Captain Salmon to Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell.

"Swiftsure," at Port Baklar, May 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Port Baklar in Her Majesty's ship under my command at 4 P.M. on Monday, the 20th May, after the departure of the "Wye" for Malta.

I first went to Karagatch, where I anchored at 10 A.M. the following day. There

is neither town nor village on or near the Bay, but a small cluster of stores and offices. Fortunately the Austrian Lloyd's steamer was in, so that I was enabled to gather the the following information from the people who had come in from the country on business.

The whole district around is in a disturbed state, owing to armed bands of Bulgarians marching about the country, plundering and burning the Turkish, and, I am assured, also the Greek villages.

At Gumurdjina are crowds of the refugees from these villages, in the greatest state of destitution, as the country is totally unable to support them; many come down to Karagatch, sell their horses and bullocks for just what will pay their passages, and embark for Constantinople, to add to the widespread destitution there. The Austrian Lloyd's steamer took away about 350 of these poor people, who, as a rule, had nothing whatever but what they stood in.

With regard to the reports of the march of a Bulgarian column, with artillery, by way of Demotica towards Gumurdjina, I was assured that they were true, and was even shown the point on the map to which they had reached.

On asking if the Governor of Gumurdjina had any means of resistance, I was told that he had not, but that he had asked for one regiment, and that it was expected.

Seeing trade in tobacco was very brisk I asked how it was that in the present disturbed state of the country it was not interrupted, and was told that the merchants had succeeded in inducing the cultivators to stick to their villages and work. The Austrian Lloyd's agent informed me that he lived out in the country, that he had sent his family away, and put his house in a state of defence, but that he did not consider his life worth an hour's purchase; that there is no security whatever for life or property, as the whole country is ruined, and people of all creeds, formerly quiet and respectable, are driven to robbery to keep themselves alive.

On my return here I looked in at Dédéagatch, with the view of obtaining further information about the Demotica column. Mr. Willshire, the Vice-Consul, informed me that though people are constantly passing backwards and forwards by the rail between Adrianople and Dédéagatch, which passes through Demotica, he had never heard of the column, and did not believe in it; he also told me that he thought the Gumurdjina refugees might be counted by hundreds instead of thousands. This rather confirmed my views that the Turks, believing these Bulgarian bands to be backed up by Russians, desert their villages, which are afterwards pillaged, but I do not think that as a rule they come into collision.

The fact of the tobacco farmers being able to hold their ground leads me to believe that panic more than actual danger has in most instances driven the Turkish villagers from their homes.

I left Karagatch soon after daylight on Wednesday morning, the 22nd, fired at a target in the forenoon, and anchored at Cavalla at about 6 P.M. Here I found everything tranquil. There were some few refugees from the Rhodope Balkans in the town, but it did not appear to have suffered in the least from the war. Here though, as well as at Karagatch, the war feeling appeared to be very strong. The population believe that the interference of England has saved their town from falling into the hands of Russia, and all classes professed to be eager to take up arms against the latter if England would only help them. In this province I was assured that there were only a few hundreds of Bulgarians, about two-thirds being Turks, and the other third Greek. I was also informed that the Greeks would join the Turks against the Russians and Bulgarians.

I left Cavalla at 8 P.M. on Thursday, and anchored at Dédéagatch at about 10 A.M. the following day (24th May).

I learnt from the Vice-Consul that in the neighbourhood of Makri and Marona is a Bulgarian brigand named Pekros, who, with his band, levies black-mail on the Turkish residents in the district, and to whom also many murders of Turks are attributed. This man sometimes visits Dédéagatch, and has been pointed out to the Russian Commandant, who declined to arrest him, saying it was no business of his. The Russian detachment there is under orders to prepare to fall back.

At noon I dressed the mast-heads and saluted with twenty-one guns in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, having previously acquainted the Russian Commandant of my intention.

At 1.30 I left Dédéagatch, and crossed over to Suoli Bay, where I anchored for the night, and the following morning took a cursory look at the bay, with a view to its capabilities as an anchorage and landing-place for troops. I am of opinion that

a better landing-place may be found to the southward, and am sending the "Falcon" to survey it.

On my way back I looked into Mermedia Bay, ordered "Foxhound" to return to Baklar as soon as her survey was completed, and returned to Port Baklar at 6 P.M., 25th instant, examining the coast from Ibriji to the Xeros Islands on my way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOWELL SALMON.

P.S. *26th May.*—The "Foxhound" arrived this afternoon from Mermedia. I will forward the result of the survey as soon as completed.

"*Agincourt*," *at Gallipoli, May* 28, 1878.

Submitted for the information of the Commander-in-chief.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL, *Rear-Admiral.*

Vice-Admiral G. Phipps Hornby,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 246.

Mr. Sturge to Mr. Lister.—(*Received June* 15.)

Anti-Slavery Society, Office, 27, New Broad Street, London, June 15, 1878.

EDMUND STURGE begs to acknowledge Mr. Lister's letter of the 12th instant, and to express his thanks for the Secretary of State's kind attention in obtaining information of Mr. Long's homes and schools, through the British Embassy at St. Petersburgh.

The information that neither homes nor schools of Mr. Long's exist in the Caza of Tatar Bazardjik causes him great surprise, and would have caused him great concern, had he not just heard from Mr. Long that he had just revisited these homes and schools around Bazardjik, and found that they had escaped injury during the conflict, having been respected both by the Turks and Russians.

No. 246*.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 572.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 14, 1878.

A WELL-INFORMED Greek merchant told me yesterday that the Russians have entered into contracts for supply of bread for about 200,000 men for one month, the bread to be delivered at thirteen places from San Stefano to Adrianople, including the Island of Marmora, where bread for about 1,200 is to be sent.

No. 247.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 573.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 14, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Gallipoli:—

"About 15,000 Russians have reached Keshan by Rodosto road. More expected. Some going to Itsala.

No. 248.

Acting Consul Summa to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 15.)

Scutari, June 14, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Montenegrin Voivoda, Verlitza, who returned on the 11th to Cettigné, declared to Vali that the question regarding the evacuation of positions occupied by the Montenegrin troops after the armistice could only be decided by the Congress. On the 10th a protest was sent to the Grand Vizier, signed by the inhabitants of Podgoritza, Scutari, all the mountaineers, and also by the Mirdites. The signers declared that they will resist with arms any cession of land, and they have demanded by telegraph the inhabitants of all the Albanian districts to join the league. In case of a cession of territory being granted to the Montenegrins beyond the positions they now occupy, precautions must be taken, and strict orders sent to the Governor of Scutari to prevent an effusion of blood.

(Sent to the British Ambassador.)

No. 249.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 577.)

Therapia, June 15, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

IN last paragraph of my telegram No. 572, of yesterday, for "12,000," read "1200."

No. 250.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 15.)

Bucharest, June 15, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

KING of Italy has sent Prince of Roumania the Order of the Annunciata.

No. 251.

Lord Tenterden to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1878, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires called to-day to inquire what answer Her Majesty's Government would make to any interpellation in Parliament as to publication of supposed agreement between Lord Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff that appeared in the "Globe." Mr. Cross said that the Cabinet had telegraphed to Lord Salisbury to consult him upon the matter, and that until he heard from him he could give no answer.

No. 252.

Sir H. Parkes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 43.)

Yedo, April 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch which I have addressed this day to the Governor of Hong Kong on the subject of a report communicated to me in a cypher telegram by Her Majesty's Consul at Hakodate on the 20th instant, to the effect that in the event of hostilities breaking out between Russia and England, an attack on that Colony (by the Russian Pacific squadron, I presume) was contemplated.

I beg to inclose a copy of Consul Eusden's telegram.

I thought it desirable to wire this report to the Governor of Hong Kong, but was informed by the Japanese Telegraph Department that my message could not be transmitted in consequence of the cable between Nagasaki and Shanghae being interrupted.

Coincident with this interruption and the receipt by me of the above telegram, the Russian squadron of three ships, which had been lying some time at Yokohama, put to sea at daylight on the 21st instant.

Vice-Admiral Hillyar arrived at Yokohama on the evening of the 17th instant, and, in view of the above occurrences, he deemed it advisable to proceed to sea at 3 P.M. on the 21st. I have since heard from Her Majesty's Consul at Hiogo that the Russian squadron arrived there at noon to-day.

I beg to add copy of another telegram which I received on the evening of the 20th instant from Her Majesty's Consul at Hakodate, stating that he had been requested by the Commander of the "Yermak," a Russian ship of war, to warn British ships against entering Vladivostok and other Russian ports without pilots supplied from Russian ships of war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 252.

Sir H. Parkes to Governor Hennessy.

(Confidential.)

Yedo, April 23, 1878.

Sir,

IN the afternoon of the 20th instant I addressed to your Excellency the following telegram in cypher:—

"Consul at Hakodate telegraphs that it is rumoured at Vladivostok that Hong Kong is to be attacked on hostilities breaking out."

The above message was sent to and received at the Central Telegraph Office at this capital; but late in the evening of the same day I was informed that it could not be transmitted from Nagasaki in consequence of the working of the cable between that port and Shanghae having been interrupted. This interruption, I was subsequently informed, had occurred as early as the evening of the 19th, and the Telegraph Department of this Government could form no opinion as to the time when the communication would be restored.

On forwarding this message to your Excellency, I also communicated it simultaneously to the Naval Commander-in-chief, Vice-Admiral Hillyar, who was then at Yokohama; and I afterwards informed him that my message remained at Nagasaki. His Excellency then took steps, I believe, to forward this intelligence by one of Her Majesty's ships to Shanghae, from which port it could be forwarded by wire to your Excellency.

Last night I was informed that communication by the cable in question had been restored at 7·30 P.M., and I therefore requested that my message should be transmitted to your Excellency. At 1·40 P.M. to-day I received this reply: "I am obliged for your telegram."

Coincident with the occurrence of this interruption in the Shanghae and Nagasaki cable, the Russian squadron, consisting of the flagship "Boyan" and the corvettes "Haydamak" and "Vsadnik," which had been lying for some time at Yokohama, put to sea, and Vice-Admiral Hillyar left on a cruize shortly afterwards. I have heard this afternoon by wire of the arrival of the Russian Admiral and one of his corvettes at Hiogo; also that the third vessel is shortly expected there, and that the Admiral speaks of staying a few days at that port.

I should add that I believe that the information telegraphed to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Hakodate was derived from an English ship which arrived at that port from Vladivostok. As my information of the state of affairs in Europe was limited, when I received that message, to the imperfect telegrams obtained here through Reuter's agency, which were of a menacing character, I thought it desirable to forward it to your Excellency, as I concluded that the later and fuller information, which is received at Hong Kong, would enable you to estimate the value of the Consul's information.

I have since heard from the Japanese Government that on the 20th instant the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburgh telegraphed that there is "a probability of the meeting of a preliminary Congress."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 252.

Consul Ensden to Sir H. Parkes.

(Telegraphic.) *Hakodate, April* 20, 1878.

THERE are now three transport ships at Vladivostok, and two gun-boats belonging to Liberian fleet. . . . "Abrik," these fortifications have increased. Attacks feared greatly. Alarming rumours there, Hong Kong to be attacked, hostilities breaking out.

Inclosure 3 in No. 252.

Consul Ensden to Sir H. Parkes.

(Telegraphic.) *Hakodate, April* 20, 1878.

"JERMAK" takes away officers and sailors from here, going to Setanai for whatever is there. Commander has requested me to warn British ships against entering Vladivostok and other harbours without pilots from men of war stationed there, torpedoes have been laid down.

No. 253.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 594.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 5, 1878.

I HAD a short interview this morning with Prince Gortchakow.

His Highness is better, but is still weak. He begged me to inform your Lordship that he should attend the Congress of Berlin, with Count Schouvaloff and M. d'Oubril, the Russian Ambassador at the German Court.

He was induced to make this effort from patriotic motives, as also for the pleasure of meeting the Earl of Beaconsfield and your Lordship.

Count Schouvaloff and M. d'Oubril are expected here to-morrow, being desirous of receiving their instructions for the Congress direct from the Emperor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 254.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 45. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrouth, June* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Ottoman transport "Babil," after having embarked a number of conscripts at the southern ports of Syria, left Beyrout, where she took on board about 200 on the 16th ultimo, for Tripoli and Lattakia, to embark more conscripts, and I am informed that she sailed for Constantinople with from 2,500 to 2,600 recruits.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Flora" sailed from Beyrout for Yemen on the 2nd instant, with about 1,200 recruits on board.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 255.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 595.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 8, 1878.

I HAD the honour to address to your Lordship to-day at 1·15 P.M. the following telegram in cypher:—

"Count Schouvaloff begs me to inform you that he submitted at once to the Emperor the English point of view relating to the retreat of navy and army from Constantinople before the Congress.

"The question is to be discussed to-day in a Council with the Emperor."

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 256.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 596. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 7, 1878.

I LEARN from a private source usually well informed that the Russian Government are concentrating a considerable force towards the western frontier (Austria), and that Field-Marshal Prince Bariatinsky, who has lately passed some weeks here as the guest of the Emperor, is to have the command in chief of it.

There is also a considerable Russian force in Roumania for the purpose, it is supposed, of watching the passes from Transylvania across the Carpathian Mountains.

I am not able to guarantee this information, but I can perceive here a general distrust and unfriendly feeling towards Austria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 257.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 598.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 8, 1878.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF called on me this morning and stated that he had had a long audience of the Emperor yesterday, the result of which he considered to be satisfactory. He begs me to inform your Lordship that he submitted at once to His Imperial Majesty the English point of view with regard to the withdrawal of the fleets and armies from the neighbourhood of Constantinople before the meeting of the Congress.

He was on his way to attend a Council, in the presence of the Emperor, at which the question was to be discussed.

In the course of our conversation Count Schouvaloff denied the truth of the reported appointment of Field Marshal Prince Bariatinsky to command the army of the western frontier (as reported to your Lordship in my previous telegram), and added that he was not even designated to any military command.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 258.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 602.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 9, 1878.

I COMMUNICATED to-day to M. de Giers (previous to the departure of Prince Gortchakow) your Lordship's despatch No. 347 of the 3rd instant, and I pointed out to his Excellency that the words referred to in the 5th Article of Memorandum I must be taken literally, and that the liberty which Her Majesty's Government proposed to retain for the Sultan of placing his troops on the frontiers of the southern province did not merely refer to the Adrianople or southern frontier, but extended to all the frontiers, the northern, eastern, and western. I stated that Her Majesty's Government, while as anxious as that of Russia that the Bulgarians should be protected from vexation or abuse on the part of the Mussulman troops, attached the greatest importance to the maintenance of sufficient authority by the Sultan for securing his political supremacy and his safety from insurrection or invasion.

His Excellency remarked that if, in conformity with the 5th Article of the Memorandum, Her Majesty's Government accepted the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Southern Bulgaria, he could not quite understand that a right should be granted to the Sultan to quarter troops on its frontiers; and he expressed his opinion that no Turkish troops should, after being withdrawn from the province, be allowed to enter Southern Bulgaria without the previous consent of the European Powers, and possibly without the supervision of an European Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 259.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 606.) *St. Petersburgh, June 9, 1878.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Schouvaloff leaves this evening, and Prince Gortchakow to-morrow morning, for Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 260.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 33. Political.) *Corfu, June 13, 1878.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of letter addressed to the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura by Ali Riza Pasha of Arta, and referable to the engagements entered into by the Pasha and the Vice-Consul on the occasion of the recent mission of the latter to the refugees on the Acarnanian frontier.

2. This document ought properly to have been submitted to your Lordship by the mail of the 10th instant, but was, unfortunately, overlooked.

3. Ali Riza Pasha has the reputation of being a smart officer, but I cannot help observing that the forbearance shown by him under the circumstances referred to in his letter does more honour to his high and delicate sense of what was due to the spirit of his promise to use the utmost moderation in dealing with the armed force opposed to him on the extreme Greek frontier, than to the acknowledged rules of the most civilized warfare.

4. The idea of tolerating for a moment that a brigand should be allowed to take "pot shots" at his men with impunity is sufficient to demoralize the whole force under his command. But considering the stuff Turkish soldiers are made of, the sure effect of such a mistaken policy must be to lead to bloody reprisals, should the opposing forces ever come to closer quarters.

5. In the event of any such collision occurring, which, considering the present aggressive proclivities of the Greeks, is far from improbable, the remark I have thus ventured to offer may serve to explain the addition sure to be made to the already heavy catalogue of imputed Turkish atrocities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Ali Riza Pasha to Vice-Consul Onofrio.

Arta, le 3 Juin, 1878.

(Extrait.)

DES familles des réfugiés sont déjà rentrées dans leurs foyers, et quelques unes restent encore dans la Grèce. Quand elles reviendront je leur ferai toutes les facilités, obéissant ainsi à l'ordre de mon Gouvernement.

Je vous annonce que quelques personnes de la famille Cutzivallis viennent souvent au village de Botzi, et tirent des coups de fusil contre les soldats.

Ils ont blessé un soldat, mais comme je vous ai donné ma parole de ne pas les

poursuivre je le fais, et pour cela je prie que vous ayez la bonté de faire le nécessaire pour que cela ne soit pas répété, autrement je serai obligé d'ordonner aux soldats de les poursuivre.

No. 261.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 34 Political.) *Corfu, June 13, 1878.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Lordship's information, copy of the despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Legation at Athens, in transmitting Vice-Consul Onofrio's answers to the charge of having, when at Carvassarà on the 18th ultimo, refused to accept, at the hands of the refugees, a memorial expressive of their desire to see Epirus and Thessaly united to Greece.

2. I humbly venture to hope that your Lordship may feel enabled to approve of the view taken by me of this question in said despatch, and, with the highest respect, I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to Mr. Wyndham.

Corfu, June 11, 1878.

Sir,

I DO myself the honour herewith to transmit, for your information, copies of the despatch and relative documents which I had the honour to address to the Marquis of Salisbury by the mail of yesterday. Among the latter is included copy of your despatch of the 1st instant, relative to the charges brought by the Nomarch of Acarnania against Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio, and brought under the notice of the Legation by M. Commoundouros.

2. The Nomarch of Acarnania appears to be a proficient in the art of colouring his reports so as "to make the worse appear the better reason." It is satisfactory, however, to find that in the present instance the Nomarch has found his match in the Vice-Consul, whose action in the matter will, I trust, meet with your approval, as it certainly has mine.

3. I take note of the fact that in backing up the Nomarch of Acarnania in his attempt to obtain the recognition of the self-constituted Provisional Government of Thessaly and Epirus by an agent acting under British authority, M. Commoundouros has thrown off the mask, and has officially identified himself with the unprincipled proceedings of the Committees who for so many months back, in the teeth of all international rights and obligations, have been moving "heaven and earth" to revolutionize the European provinces of Turkey.

4. The toleration with which this insidious policy has been treated hitherto by other Governments has been interpreted by the Greek Government and people as countenance at their ambitious aspirations; but had the recent attempt to obtain by a side-wind a *quasi* official recognition of the Provisional Government of Thessaly been successful, we should, beyond a doubt, have been laid open to the further imputation of complicity with their acts and proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 262.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 17.)

Admiralty, June 15, 1878.
My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Ismid, June 15, 1878, 2·15 P.M.*

REAR-ADMIRAL (at) Gallipoli reports that insurgents are being surrounded near Stimonaka by Bulgarian and Russian troops. Their condition is precarious. He suggests that steps should be taken to ensure their safety during sitting of Congress.

No. 263.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 17.)

Admiralty, June 15, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the inclosed extract of a letter addressed to Vice-Admiral Hornby by Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, on the departure of the squadron under his command from Port Saïd, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that their Lordships consider it would be very desirable that some acknowledgment should be made to the authorities of the Suez Canal, and especially to M. Ducherf, for their courtesy on the occasion of the passage of the Indian troops through the Canal, and my Lords request that you will move the Secretary of State to cause instructions in accordance with the suggestion of Lord John Hay to be sent to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, should there be no objection to the above proposal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 263.

Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Port Saïd, May 29, 1878.

(Extract.)

IN taking leave of my duties in regard to the passage of the Canal by the Indian transports, I must bear witness to the uniform courtesy and obliging disposition of the Canal authorities, in which none have been more conspicuous than M. Ducherf. I should be glad if some acknowledgment of the fact could be made.

No. 264.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 17.)

(Confidential.) *Admiralty, June 17, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, C.B., dated 17th June, at Suda Port.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Canea, June 17, 1878, 8·10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE telegraphed to the Commander-in-chief as follows:—"Consul informs me that the Governor has taken alarm at the probable effect on the Mussulman population of the reported intention of Congress as to the annexation of Candia to Greece, and has asked for "Foxhound" to be anchored off the west of Candia.

"I will send her, with judicious instructions, reminding you that I have no instructions, and that difficult questions may arise."

No. 265.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 578.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 16, 1878.*

THE statements contained in my telegram No. 572, that bread was to be placed on Island of Marmora for Russian troops, appears to be confirmed by a report from the Governor of Artaki or Cyzicus opposite island, that a Russian officer with some tents landed on it some days ago. I have suggested to Admiral the Russian proceedings upon the island should be carefully watched.

No. 266.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, June 16, 1878.*

PRINCE of Montenegro informs me by telegram that the Turks (at) Scutari have forced his lines; fighting still going on; fifty assailants cut off, and that he is not responsible for the consequences.

No. 267.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 582.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 17, 1878.*

THERE is reason to fear that the Russians, in order to justify their demands at the Congress to keep their army before Constantinople, may endeavour to incite troubles in the city. Sultan has been much alarmed by a report brought to him that Russian General had stated that Russian forces were being held in readiness to deal with anticipated movement in Constantinople.

A collision nearly happened this morning between Turkish and Russian forces in consequence of Fuad Pasha, the Turkish General commanding the left line of defence, calling upon Russians to remove a look-out they had erected to command Turkish line, and threatening in case of refusal to remove it himself. General Todleben has brought up artillery to resist. Grand Vizier, whom I have just seen, has sent explicit orders to Fuad Pasha to allow structure to remain, and not to hazard any collision.

No. 268.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 584.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 17, 1878.*

PORTE has refused to enter into proposed Convention with Roumania, on the ground that by doing so it would violate Treaty of Paris, and acknowledge Treaty of San Stefano.

M. Bratiano informs me that he will return at once to Bucharest.

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No. 269.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 586.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 17, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER has shown me very full report, sent by the first Turkish Plenipotentiary, of his interviews with your Lordship and Lord Beaconsfield. His Highness begged me to say he was very grateful for the friendly language held by your Lordship with regard to Turkey, and to express his earnest hope that you would insist upon the line of the Balkans as absolutely necessary for the defence of the Turkish Empire, that you would succeed in preserving for Turkey Varna and some other strong places to north of Balkans, and that Montenegro and Servia would not be allowed to keep all the territory assigned to them by the Treaty of San Stefano, and thus be enabled to ultimately unite into one State. His Highness says that a large portion of territory, stated by General Ignatieff at San Stefano to be occupied by Montenegro, and consequently ceded to her, was never so occupied, but is still in possession of the Porte. His Highness hopes, in the event of Russia refusing to surrender Batoum, the suggestion for making it a free port will not be overlooked.

It would be well not to mention to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries that their reports are shown to me.

No. 270.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 587.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 17, 1878.

COUNCIL of Ministers have finally decided upon not acceding to suggestion of Count Andrassy that Turkey should invite the entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia, on the grounds that it is intended to lead to a definite annexation of that Province and Herzegovina by Austria, to which no Turkish Ministry could consent, and that the questions of those provinces is now before the Congress. Grand Vizier says had the Congress not met, the decision might have been different.

No. 271.

Acting Vice-Consul Summa to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(Télégraphique.)

Scutari, June 17, 1878.

LE Prince de Monténégro, en date de Cettigné, 15 Juin, soir, télégraphe au Corps Consulaire que les Turcs de Scutari ont attaqué les postes Monténégrines et forcé leurs lignes dans la Kraina, où le combat continue chaudement. Le Prince en rejette la responsabilité sur les auteurs de ce guet-apens. J'en ai immédiatement entretenu le Gouverneur. Il envoya sur les lieux faire enquête en priant le Prince de faire le même. Son Altesse lui a répondu d'avoir chargé Blaze Petrovitel de s'enquérir des faits. Le conflit a eu lieu dans l'intérieure de Kraina entre les habitants et les Monténégrins. Mais les ordres les plus rigoureux ont été donné pour empêcher son extension. Hier un télégramme a été transmis par les Albanais aux Plénipotentiaires du Congrès à Berlin. Les Signataires protestent contre l'annexation au Monténégro d'Antivari, Dulcigno et des places fortes de Podgoritza et Sputz, qui ont toujours appartenu à l'Albanie et qui lui ont servi de défense contre l'ennemi. Les Soussignés supplient, au nom du peuple Albanais, de prendre en considération les calamités qui menacent son existence. Musulmans Catholiques sont décidés de défendre l'intégrité leur territoire contre les Slaves. La division projetée était contraire à l'histoire, aux intérêts, aux vœux du pays; enfin ils prient de leur ouvrir la voie de la civilisation et du progrès. Cette dépêche a été transmise à l'Ambassade Britannique à Constantinople.

No. 272.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 315.)
My Lord,

Athens, May 26, 1878.

IN my despatches Nos. 315 and 316 of the 16th instant I have had the honour to report to your Lordship that in reply to my inquiries as to the presence of Greek insurrectionary agents in Crete, I had been informed that there were none, but that the Cretan Insurrectionary Committees in Greece were sending arms, ammunition, and provisions to that island to assist the Christians in their insurrectionary movement against Mussulman rule.

With a view of furthering, if possible, the endeavours which are being made by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to bring about a pacification in Crete, and a compromise between the Christians and the Turks, I yesterday called upon M. Renieri, a Cretan, who is the Director of the National Bank in Athens, and who is at the head of the Cretan Insurrectionary Committees in Athens.

I told him that Mr. Layard was endeavouring to bring about an understanding in Crete; that if he would tell me his opinion as to what would be satisfactory to the Cretans it might prove of some utility.

He said that the Christians in Crete were in a different position to what the insurgents in Thessaly and in Epirus had been; that they were masters of the country districts, and that the Turks were only in possession of the towns and fortresses; that they would be glad of an armistice which would put an end to bloodshed and admit of the crops being gathered in by both Mussulmans and Christians; and he laid stress upon the necessity of the Mussulmans not being accompanied by troops when they came into the country districts.

I said that I thought that it would facilitate a solution of the difficulty if the Insurrectionary Committees in Greece would undertake to discontinue sending arms and ammunition to Crete; that if the Turks offered an armistice something should be offered in return.

M. Renieri said he would consult the members of the Committee upon what I had said to him; and to-day he called upon me and informed me that if an armistice, the observation of which was guaranteed to England, was concluded, the Committees in Greece would cease from forwarding arms and ammunition to the Christians in Crete from the date of its notification. The last armistice having been violated, he said it was necessary to have a guarantee as to the observation of another, should it be agreed to; and he concluded his conversation by expressing the hope that I would recommend to Her Majesty's Government the solution of the Cretan question in the manner which was desired by Cretans, namely, the annexation of Crete to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 273.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 349.)
My Lord,

Athens, May 27, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 343 of the 25th instant, in which I reported to your Lordship that the Turkish Minister had informed me that he had addressed a note to the Greek Government complaining of an export tax which was being imposed in Greece upon cattle belonging to refugees from Turkey, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I spoke to M. Delyanni upon the subject this morning, and I asked him if it was true that the Greek authorities were imposing a tax upon the cattle in question. He replied that he was not acquainted with the Customs law, and that he had referred Photiades Bey's note to the Minister of Finance. I expressed to him the hope that whatever the provisions of the Fiscal Law might be, an exception would be made with regard to cattle which had been driven into Greece under exceptional circumstances, and that no impediments by the Greek Government would be thrown in the way of the refugees returning to their homes, and I stated that probably

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the reported cost to the Government for the maintenance of the refugees in Greece would not be compensated for by the produce of an export tax upon their cattle.

On the evening of the 26th instant, I received a private note from M. Delyanni, forwarding to me a translation of a telegram which he had received from a M. Economides, styling himself the representative of the refugees in the Province of Armyro, and I also received a telegram from the same person, copies of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

M. Economides states that 400 families are ready to return to their homes, but that the Bimbashi of Armyro asks 300*l.* Turkish as compensation for protection to be afforded them. I telegraphed yesterday to Mr. Blunt at Volo, giving him the name of the Bimbashi who was reported to be making this demand, and begging him to urge the authorities to prevent abuses and acts of violence with regard to the refugees.

When I saw M. Delyanni to-day, I told him of the nature of my telegram to Mr. Blunt, and I requested him to be so good as to communicate to the proper authority near the frontiers, for the information of M. Economides, the step I had taken in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 273.

M. Delyanni to Mr. Wyndham.

Athènes, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Mai*, 1878.

Mon cher Monsieur,

JE viens de recevoir à l'instant un télégramme de Sourpi, dont je m'empresse de vous transmettre une traduction Française. Je ne sais pas de quoi il s'agit. Il paraît que quelque fonctionnaire Turque suscite des obstacles au rapatriement de ceux qui voudraient rentrer dans leurs foyers. Si vous êtes en disposition de prendre quelque mesure au profit de ces malheureux, veuillez, je vous en prie, vous hâter de la faire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 273.

M. Economides to M. Delyanni.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Sourpi, le* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Mai*, 1878, *3 heures soir.*

OBÉISSANT aux conseils qui nous ont été donnés par le Nomarque et par le Consul Anglais à Lamia, nous nous sommes préparés 400 familles, avec nos bestiaux, pour rentrer dans nos foyers, après avoir demandé une entrevue avec le Bimbashi d'Almyro. Celui-ci nous a demandé comme récompense la somme de 300 livres Turques pour nous accorder sa protection. Les Turcs sont furieux, et nous menacent. Aucun ordre sévère n'a été envoyé, comme le Consul Anglais nous l'avait promis. Nous resterons sur les montagnes pour mourir, les armes à la main. Nous expédions un télégramme pareil à la Légation Britannique.

Le représentant des réfugiés de la Province d'Almyro,
(Signé) D. ECONOMIDES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 273.

M. Economides to Mr. Wyndham.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sourpi, May* 25, 1878.

IN deference to the advice of Her Majesty's Government we, 400 families, have prepared to return to our homes with our cattle. Having endeavoured to come to an understanding with the Bimbashi of Armyro, Mustapha Effendi, he demanded as price of protection during our return 300*l.* Turkish, required, he said, to apease the anger of the Turks, but we prefer to remain in the mountains till death. Cursed be they who are the cause.

The representative of the refugees of the Province of Armyro,
(Signed) D. ECONOMIDES.

No. 274.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 350.)
My Lord, *Athens, May* 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a report from the Prefect of Corfu to his Government, which was communicated to me yesterday by M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the difficulties which are experienced in connection with the return to their homes of the Epirote refugees of Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 274.

M. Michos to M. Delyanni.

(Traduction.)
M. le Ministre, *Corfou, le* $\frac{17}{29}$ *Mai*, 1878.

J'AI adressé aujourd'hui une lettre à M. le Président du Conseil des Ministres sur l'affaire des réfugiés Epirotes qui se trouvent dans cette île, et touchant laquelle j'ai eu déjà l'honneur de vous télégraphier en réponse aux ordres que M. le Président a bien voulu me donner. Je crois devoir vous transmettre les extraits suivants de la lettre en question :—

"J'ai exécuté vos ordres touchant les réfugiés.

"Je me suis adressé à ceux-ci indirectement; mais, malheureusement, je vois qu'ils sont fort peu disposés à retourner dans leur pays. Leur manque de confiance aux promesses de la Sublime Porte, l'animosité qui est née en eux contre les Musulmans indigènes et contre quelques Chrétiens, et la destruction complète de leurs biens, sont autant d'arguments qu'ils nous opposent et qui ne peuvent pas facilement et d'une manière convaincante être refutés. Le Consul d'Angleterre, après un long débat, m'a promis qu'il s'entendrait directement avec eux, mais je crois avoir compris qu'il n'ose pas leur parler avec beaucoup de fermeté, peut être parcequ'il n'a pas reçu des instructions sur l'affaire dont il s'agit, et probablement parce qu'il n'a pas, paraît-il, grande confiance aux promesses Turques et qu'il ne veut pas prendre sur lui une responsabilité morale vis-à-vis de ces réfugiés.

"Si les craintes d'une guerre Européenne cessent, ainsi que les dernières nouvelles reçues le font d'ailleurs supposer, on en viendra certainement à s'occuper au sein du Congrès du sort de ces malheureuses provinces et c'est alors que nous nous déchargerons du fardeau qui pèse maintenant sur nous. Je m'adresse aujourd'hui à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères en le priant de vouloir bien venir encore une fois au secours des réfugiés, car les moyens dont la Commission dispose ne sont pas suffisants.

"Toutefois, quoique je continue à agir selon vos ordres M. Coumoundouros m'a montré aujourd'hui une dépêche de Photiadès Bey, par laquelle il lui annonce l'armistice accordée, et dans laquelle j'ai vu malheureusement qu'il est question d'un délai fixé, en dedans lequel les réfugiés doivent se rapatrier sous peine d'en perdre

ultérieurement le droit. N'est-il pas possible de faire prolonger ce court délai accordé."

En vous transmettant l'extrait ci-dessus permettez-moi, M. le Ministre, de vous prier de vouloir bien prendre en considération l'avis que j'exprime, touchant le secours pécuniaire à accorder aux malheureux réfugiés et que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre aujourd'hui officiellement au Ministère sous votre direction.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) MICHOS.

No. 275.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 351.)
My Lord, *Athens, May* 28, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 343 of the 25th instant, and No. 349 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have learned to-day from an authorized source that orders have been sent to the Customs officers on the frontiers to allow the cattle belonging to the refugees from Turkey to leave Greece free of Customs duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 276.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 352. Most Secret.)
My Lord, *Athens, May* 29, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram, marked Secret, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I had an interview this morning with M. Kalinski, the King's Private Secretary, and that I informed him that the Porte was disposed to negotiate with Greece for a rectification of frontiers, and I pointed out to him the danger of the Greek question in certain eventualities being altogether put aside by the Congress.

With a view of encouraging Greece to enter into negotiations with the Porte for a rectification of frontiers, I added that it appeared to me that England neither could nor would lend herself to any policy with regard to Turkey identical to that which was pursued with regard to another country (Poland) in 1795, and that even if England were to take the initiative at the Congress of proposing that Turkey should cede Thessaly and Epirus to Greece, was it certain that Turkey would acquiesce in such a measure, or that Russia and Germany (not to speak of other Powers) would support such a policy in favour of Greece, Prince Bismarck appearing inclined to put the Greek question on one side if it presents difficulties, a step on his part which might be agreeable to Russia? But that if Greece can come to an amicable understanding with Turkey as to a rectification of frontiers, it is possible that the Congress would sanction such an arrangement, and that it appeared to me probable that Her Majesty's Government would support it.

M. Kalinski asked me if I would give him the text of the telegram to show to the King, and I at once complied with his request, omitting the paragraph in which your Lordship instructs me to represent the matter to M. Kalinski.

M. Kalinski said he thought the question was one of great delicacy and difficulty, and that he would take the King's orders on the subject at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 277.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 355.)
My Lord, *Athens, May* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Coumoundouros, the Prime Minister, called upon me to-day to inform me that a very bad impression has been created here by the reported refusal of Her Majesty's Consul in Crete to receive a petition from the insurgents in favour of the annexation of that island to Greece, and the report that the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura had acted in a similar manner with regard to the Epirote refugees.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 278.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 356.)
My Lord, *Athens, May* 30, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 348 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Rénieri, Governor of the National Bank, and the head of the Cretan Insurrectionary Committee in Athens, communicated to me the telegram, of which I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy, as to the interview lately held between Mr. Sandwith, Her Majesty's Consul in Crete, and Representatives of the insurgents at Fré. He said that the report, if confirmed, of Mr. Sandwith having refused to receive the Décret and Mémoire of the Cretan Assembly expressing a desire for annexation to Greece would create a very bad impression in this country. I have the honour to inclose copies of the Décret and Mémoire in question.

To-day M. Coumoundouros, the Prime Minister, called upon me, and said that a report that Her Majesty's Consul in Crete had refused to receive the above-mentioned Mémoire, and a report from the Prefect of Caravassera, in Acarnania, that the British Vice-Consul in Santa Maura had also refused to accept at Arta a petition or a statement on the part of refugees from Epirus, containing expressions in favour of annexation to Greece, was a coincidence which had created a very unfavourable impression in Athens, as it looked as if the Consular Officers in question were unwilling to grant to the insurgents an opportunity of making their wishes known, and did not appear to be in harmony with the attitude of Messrs. Blunt and Merlin in Thessaly.

I told M. Coumoundouros that I had no information as to the reported proceedings of the British Vice-Consul in Santa Maura, that in the above-mentioned respect he was not acting under orders from me, that I would make inquiries if I received no report from Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu on the matter, and that in the meantime I would inform your Lordship of the unfavourable impression which these reports had created in Athens.

I am afraid that the Greeks are beginning to be suspicious that England is not so favourable to their aspirations as they would wish, and I much fear that if they think they cannot obtain the realization of their aspirations through the good offices of England or through the Congress, they may, in a fit of despair, have recourse to measures which may bring about a conflagration in this part of Europe. A revolution may take place which may force the Government into once more invading Turkish territory, or the Government, in order to avert revolution, may enter upon hostilities with their neighbour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Télégram from Syra, dated May 16, 1878.

AUCUN nouvel acte d'hostilité n'a eu lieu en Crète.

Le Consul Anglais s'est rendu à Ere le 12 du mois courant, et il a communiqué aux Députés et aux Chefs militaires l'invitation de suspendre l'effusion de sang, sur la promesse donnée par la Porte à Mr. Layard de s'occuper, d'accord avec l'Angleterre, de trouver pour la Crète une nouvelle forme de Gouvernement plus convenable à ce pays et accompagné d'une amnistie. Les députés, après délibération, avaient décidé de communiquer au Consul le décret déjà connu de l'assemblée et le Memorandum contenant l'expression de leurs vœux; mais le Consul a refusé de les accepter et de les prendre en considération; après quoi ils ont été obligés de rédiger une nouvelle pièce par laquelle ils remercient le Consul pour l'intervention du Gouvernement Britannique, qu'ils acceptent pour le but proposé de trouver une nouvelle forme de gouvernement, sous la condition qu'on conclura préalablement un armistice sur la base de l'*uti possidetis*, devant durer jusqu'à la solution définitive de la question Crétoise.

Plusieurs chefs ont refusé de signer cette pièce; les Sphakiotes ont rédigé une pièce à part par laquelle ils se prononcent pour l'annexion à la Grèce. Le Consul a pris les pièces avec lui, ajoutant qu'il demandera de nouvelles instructions et reviendra dans la semaine pour s'entendre avec les Crétois. Hier il a télégraphié à Mr. Layard que les Crétois acceptent l'armistice mais non l'amnistie.

No. 279.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 359. Secret.)

Athens, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to report that on the 29th instant I communicated to authorized source your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant.* The substance of the answer I received to-day is as follows:—

"After the promise which has been made by Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the participation of Greece in the Congress, and also as regards the wishes of the populations of Thessaly and Epirus with reference to their future political state, the Greeks and Hellenism confidently await the full realization of a promise made to them by a Power who is justly looked upon now as able to impose its wishes upon the Porte, and as possessing a preponderating influence in the European concert. A simple rectification of frontiers in the Provinces of Epirus and Thessaly, which would have the effect of cutting in two the Greek element in those provinces, would, whilst realising the wishes of one section, leave the other in its present condition, and, instead of bringing about a stable pacification, would incur the risk of creating fresh causes of trouble. It would, therefore, in order to be able to appreciate the value of the arrangement to which the Porte apparently is inclined, be desirable to be furnished with exact information as to what portion of those provinces would be excluded from the benefit of annexation. Consequently the proposal of the Porte, the communication of which is announced as soon probable, is awaited."

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 280.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 360. Secret.)

Athens, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant,* and to my despatches Nos. 352 and 350 of the 29th and of to-day's date† respectively, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a paper, which I received this morning, from an

authorized source, as to a rectification of the frontiers of Greece, the contents of which I at once telegraphed to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Paper communicated to Mr. Wyndham.

APRÈS les promesses données par le Gouvernement de la Reine, tant en ce qui concerne la participation de la Grèce au Congrès, qu'en ce qui concerne les vœux des Thessaliens et des Epirotes relativement à leur futur état politique, les Grecs et l'Hellénisme s'attendent en toute confiance à la réalisation entière de la promesse donnée par une Puissance qui est considérée aujourd'hui, à juste titre, comme prépondérante dans le concert Européen, et pouvant donner la loi à la Turquie. Une simple rectification des frontières en Thessalie et Epire, qui couperait en deux l'élément Grec dans ces deux provinces pour réaliser les vœux d'une section en laissant l'autre dans l'état actuel, risquerait de créer de nouvelles causes de troubles au lieu d'amener une pacification stable. Il faudrait donc savoir au juste quelle partie de ces provinces la Turquie prétendrait exclure du bénéfice de l'annexion, pour pouvoir apprécier la valeur de l'arrangement auquel elle paraît disposée à se prêter; par conséquent, on attend la proposition de la Porte, dont la communication prochaine est annoncée comme probable.

(Not dated, but received by Mr. Wyndham on the 31st May, 1878.)

No. 281.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 361. Very Confidential.)

Athens, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I called this morning upon M. Tissot, the French Minister at this Court, and that he asked me what was my opinion as to the present state of affairs in Greece. I replied that I thought it very critical indeed; that if the Greeks were altogether disappointed in their aspirations we should have to face much greater difficulties than we had faced in February; and I told him what I had written to your Lordship yesterday in concluding my despatch marked No. 356. He replied, that he was entirely of my opinion, and that he had yesterday addressed a despatch to his Government, pointing out to them that, judging from the present temper of the public, and from the character of the Greeks, he thought that unless something were done to calm them (and a simple rectification of frontiers would not suffice for that purpose) they would take some step which would bring about a very serious state of affairs.

M. Tissot seemed to think that if Turkey could be induced to cede Crete and Samos to Greece it might calm them. I thought so also at first, but I am inclined, on thinking over the matter, that the cession of these islands to Greece would not settle the question, and that it would be the prelude of further movements in Thessaly and Epirus.

Moreover, the populations of Crete and Samos do not run the same danger of falling under the influence of the Slavs as do, it is said, the Greeks in Thessaly and Epirus, and which is one of the arguments used here in favour of their annexation to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 282.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 362.)
Athens, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an article from the "Messager d'Athènes," to which I beg to call your Lordship's attention, as it sets forth accurately, as far as I am able to judge, the temper of the public in Greece at present, and the policy which may be forced upon the Government if Greece is disappointed in her aspirations.

I have endeavoured to lay this subject before your Lordship in previous despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 282.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of May 14/26, 1878.

Athènes, le 14/26 Mai, 1878.

DANS notre dernier numéro nous avons dit deux mots des difficultés de la situation, de la sage attitude du peuple Hellène depuis le commencement de la crise Orientale. Ces difficultés ne sont pas le fait de l'opposition, ouverte ou latente, des partis; elles sont, en quelque sorte, inhérentes à la situation même. Jamais, en effet, le Gouvernement n'a été mieux ni plus promptement obéi. Tous les hommes politiques de quelque valeur, la presse toute entière ont secondé avec un dévouement, une abnégation, puisés aux sources du patriotisme le plus désintéressé, le Cabinet du Œcuménique d'abord, le Ministère Coumoundouros ensuite. Le silence des organes autorisés des partis n'a pas peu contribué à aplanir les voies au Gouvernement, à raffermir l'ordre public un moment ébranlé à la nouvelle de la conclusion de la paix de San Stéphano.

On se demande maintenant si le peuple n'a pas été trop sage, si le Gouvernement, cédant à la pression des Puissances, n'eût bien inspiré en appelant ses troupes de la Thessalie; si, en un mot, l'Europe, appelée à régler les affaires d'Orient, prendra en considération les vœux de la nationalité Hellénique. Ces questions jettent un grand trouble dans les esprits; on se prend à douter de l'Angleterre, on craint, comme avant la guerre, que l'Hellénisme ne soit sacrifié aux combinaisons diplomatiques des Grandes Puissances, que l'équilibre des forces ne soit obtenu en Orient au profit du Slavisme.

Cet équilibre peut être obtenu de deux manières, par la création d'une Bulgarie indépendante avec compensations équivalentes pour les provinces Grecques de l'Empire ottoman et par l'agrandissement territorial des Principautés Slaves, sans un arrondissement de frontières pour la Grèce libre. Avec l'ancien ordre de choses, la Grèce avait autant de forces et de ressources que la Serbie et le Monténégro réunis et les Grecs de Turquie, placés dans les mêmes conditions politiques et sociales que les Bulgares, étaient en position de faire respecter leurs droits. Le nouvel ordre de choses, créé par le Traité de San-Stéphano, met non-seulement la Turquie, mais la Grèce et les Hellènes, à la discrétion du Slavisme.

Pour tout Hellène intelligent un pareil arrangement de la question d'Orient est l'arrêt de mort de la race Grecque. Le peuple se résignera-t-il à cette funèbre perspective, et le Gouvernement, sur qui pèse une si grande responsabilité, s'inclinera-t-il devant la décision des Puissances, reconnaîtra-t-il les faits accomplis sans protester? Il devra le faire par l'envoi d'une note aux chancelleries? Le doute est d'autant plus permis que de grands sacrifices ont été faits en vue de défendre les droits de l'Hellénisme, que le Gouvernement rassemble toutes les forces, appelle les classes pères sous les drapeaux, complète ses approvisionnements militaires comme si nous étions à la veille d'une entrée en campagne.

Rien ne nous autorise, pour le moment, l'opinion à l'intérieur, cette concentration de troupes n'aurait aucune raison d'être si le Gouvernement était décidé de s'en remettre entièrement au jugement des Puissances Européennes. Des résolutions viriles pourront lui être imposées par les événements, il ne saurait prendre trop tôt ses mesures pour réunir le plus de chances possibles de le faire respecter. Il y va non-seulement de son honneur, mais de l'avenir de la nationalité Hellénique. Si l'Europe nous con-

damne, si la force menace de l'imposer encore une fois sur le droit, il ne doit pas hésiter un seul instant à se lancer dans une politique d'aventures, car mieux vaut encore périr pour une bonne et sainte cause que de traîner une existence languissante sur laquelle ne tarderaient pas à se déchaîner tous les maux de la boîte de Pandore. C'est là, que l'on ne s'y trompe pas, le sentiment qui se fait jour à travers les indécisions et les défaillances qu'il nous a été donné parfois de constater.

No. 283.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 30. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch No. 20 of the 20th instant, which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, from Ragusa, regarding the state of affairs in the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Ragusa, May 20, 1878.

Sir,

HAVING received on the 12th instant a telegram stating that my leave was granted, I left Mostar on the morning of the 16th and, riding by Stolac and Trebinje, reached Ragusa early on the 18th.

Now that my Consular connection with Turkey is about to cease, I am anxious to bring to your notice the civility I have received from both civil and military authorities in the Herzegovina.

Before quitting Mostar I had several interviews with the Mutessarif, and on each occasion he expressed the readiness of the Turkish Government to help those Beys who should themselves be unable to rebuild the houses of, or to support, the returning rayahs.

The Beys have, I understand, stated that they are ready to do what they can to reestablish the fugitives in their former villages. But at Mostar I had already formed the opinion that little could be expected from the Beys, and the late journey from Stolac to Trebinje has convinced me of their inability to make any outlay even if they have the will.

At Stolac I heard very grievous accounts of the distress and poverty of both Moslems and Christians. At Ljubinje poverty and sickness stared me in the face. The country along the path from Stolac to Trebinje, and thence to the Austrian frontier, is desolate, the only inhabitants being the soldiers in the blockhouses. The villages were destroyed three years ago, and the fields have since been so overgrown that their recultivation will be hard work.

The Turkish Government has not made any preparation whatever for the return of the fugitives, and the troops are suffering from scurvy. Recently, more food has been issued to the soldiers, but the flour given at Stolac is so adulterated that it is positively causing disease. Meat is now issued, but vegetables are still wanted. Medicines are also in request, and the medical attendants not having received any pay for some months, many of the comforts intended for the sick never reach their destination.

Luckily the fugitives are not returning. The few who do come into the Turkish villages only come as visitors for the day, and do not report themselves to the local authorities.

The Montenegrins and insurgents occupy the mountain districts between Novesinje, Metokia, Stolac, and Trebinje, with head-quarters at Bilek. Along the Dalmatian frontier the insurgents hold the Popovopolje. Duke Mosic, at Ravno, is the nominal Chief on this side, but many of his people are collected at Gradovido and Grahovi, near Sluno.

Active hostilities have ceased, but the mountain-path between Ljubinje and Trebinje—the only means of communication between Trebinje and the rest of Turkish

Bosnia—is guarded by blockhouses, and is considered so unsafe that escorts are told off to accompany travellers.

At Stolac there is an old castle, the walls of which are still in fair order, and could resist any infantry attack.

Trebinje is defended by a few blockhouses on the surrounding heights, and the old town is inclosed by walls which would form a shelter for the population. As far as I can make out the distribution of the Turkish troops in the Herzegovina on the 17th May was as follows:—

Head-quarters, Mostar: Commander, Ali Pasha.

Mostar and camp at Blagaï	..	..	5 battalions infantry.
Ljubuski and Lower Narenta	..	..	1 " "
Metokia (Gacko)	..	..	3 " "
Trebinje	..	..	4 " "
Stolac	..	..	2 " "
Total	..	..	15 battalions Redif and Nizam.
Nevesinje and Ljubinje	..	..	2 battalions Mustahfiz.

The battalions vary in strength, but average about 750 men.

There are three mountain batteries at Blagaï, and probably two between Metokia and Trebinje. At Mostar, Stolac, Pocitelj, Ljubuski, Metokia, and Trebinje, there are guns of position.

If the frontiers of Montenegro be extended in the direction of Metokia (Gacko) and Bilek, as proposed by the San Stefano Treaty, Trebinje will become a second Niksic, the object of constant attacks on the part of the Montenegrins, which the Bosniacs will find excessively difficult to ward off. Any expedition for the relief of Trebinje will have either to pass along the Austrian frontier by the Trebinjcica valley or to traverse the mountain-path between Stolac and Trebinje, which is in parts scarcely passable for mounted men. In following this path I had constantly to dismount, and my escort did quite a third of the journey between Ljubinje and Trebinje on foot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 281.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 711.)

Therapia, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Willshire, British Vice-Consul at Dédéagatch. It affords further evidence of the manner in which the Russians are carrying out their work of humanity and civilization in the country that they have occupied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 281.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Mr. Layard.

Dédéagatch, May 29, 1878.

Sir,

I BEG to submit to your Excellency the following report on what has occurred here during the last few days, and which has given rise to much uneasiness and fear among the inhabitants of this place and its neighbourhood. Your Excellency has, I daresay, heard of a Bulgarian brigand named Petco, who has been the terror of this district for many years past. It was asserted in the month of January last that this Petco, with two of his companions, had been shot dead by the police in a hut near the village of Kenerli, where he had taken shelter. This turned out to be false, for some time after he again made his appearance with a band of twelve to fifteen men, and was heard of at Maronia, where, being in a house, he and his companions were surrounded by Turkish soldiers, but managed to cut their way through them, after inflicting serious losses to the Turks, and he losing two of his band.

Since then, finding that it was not prudent for him to venture there where Turks are still the masters, he has been constantly in this neighbourhood, knowing very well that the Russians will do him no harm, for Major Borissoff, who commands the troops here, has often declared that it is not his duty to pursue and seize brigands, and that the inhabitants must do their best to protect themselves. Petco has been seen several times in the streets of Dédéagatch, and though the Major was informed of his presence here, he has never taken any measures to have him arrested, probably because he is a Bulgarian.

I am told that Petco has declared that it is not his intention to do any harm to Christians, but that whenever a Turk falls into his hands, he will not spare him, and he is true to his word, for last week five Turks have disappeared. It is said that they have fallen into Petco's hands, and have been murdered by him.

The Commission appointed to govern the town has not the power to put a stop to such acts, and consequently the Bulgarians inhabiting the villages round about, convinced that they can act with the same impunity as Petco, are imitating his example. On the 23rd instant a Turk on horseback was passing on the road about half-a-mile from the railway station, when he was fired at by several Bulgarians concealed in the bushes. He was lucky enough, however, to escape unhurt. And yesterday at 10 A.M. several armed Bulgarians presented themselves at a coffee-house here, and seizing hold of a Turk, bound him and carried him off. The Major, on being informed, was at last induced to do something to save the Turk; but, instead of taking soldiers with him, he went to pursue the Bulgarians, accompanied only by a captain. I am told he did find them, but they all managed to escape. As to the poor Turk, it is said that he had been already murdered by them. The conduct of the Bulgarians is such that no Turk dares to show himself; even the inhabitants of Dédéagatch are living in a state of great uneasiness, for though perhaps at the present moment they have nothing to apprehend, it is to be feared that if the Russian troops leave (as it is reported they intend to do) the Turks will seek to be revenged, and that acts of retaliation will be committed which will cause much blood to be shed, and endanger the lives of the inhabitants of this place. It is therefore very urgent that the Turkish Government should be convinced of the necessity of having a body of troops ready to land here the very day the Russians depart, to keep order and protect the inhabitants. It has been several times reported that the Russians intended erecting one or two batteries here. I am led to believe they have given up that idea, the Major having, I hear, received orders, in case war should break out with England, to be ready to leave at a moment's notice. It would indeed be difficult for the Russians to defend the long line of open coast that extends to the westward of Dédéagatch.

I shall not trouble your Excellency with entering into the details of the many reports that have been spread here, and which have all proved false. The projected attack on Dédéagatch by Bashi-Bazouks coming from Gumurjina was invented, it is said, by Petco and his companions. Some bands of Bashi-Bazouks and stragglers or deserters from Suleiman Pasha's army did pass through the villages in this neighbourhood, directing their steps towards the Arda valley, to join the insurgents there, but they behaved themselves well, and did not molest the villagers. Petco, however, was afraid of falling into their hands, and during their passage he did not dare leave the outskirts of Dédéagatch, trusting to the protection the presence here of Russian troops would afford him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. W. WILLSHIRE.

P.S.—I have just been told that the body of the Turk who was carried away from the coffee-house yesterday has been found in a ravine close by. The poor fellow was impaled and then cut to pieces. The body of one of the other five missing Turks has also been found. Petco is not at the head of this band, the chief is named Arghiri, a Greek, and was one of Petco's companions, but has separated from him lately. He has sent word to the few Turks who reside here that they must leave this town, otherwise he will seize them and murder them. He has also ordered the boatmen not to take any passengers for the village of Maeri (two hours distant), threatening to shoot those that do so. This is to oblige people to go there by land, so that they may fall an easy prey to him. I need not assure your Excellency that the inhabitants of Dédéagatch consider their lives in danger.

L. W. W.

No. 285.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Ragusa, June 1, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to a report circulated by the press, stating that a renewal of hostilities between Turkey and Montenegro was threatened, I have the honour to repeat to your Lordship what was said to me on the subject by M. Durando, my Italian colleague, who, as your Lordship is probably aware, is accredited to the Prince of Montenegro.

M. Durando informed me that some time back he had been requested by the Prince to point out to the Italian Government that the Turks, for no apparent motive, were taking up a threatening attitude; and that in consequence of an expected attack His Highness was compelled to take precautions to defend his frontier.

Strangely enough the same day on which his despatch reached home, a communication was received from the Porte complaining that the Montenegrins were about to recommence hostilities, and stating that precautionary measures were being taken to repel an attack.

The mistake was fortunately discovered in time to prevent mischief, and the affair was passed off as a joke at the expense of the two rival camps.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 286.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 712.) *Therapia, June 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

AMONG the printed confidential despatches for Saturday, May 18, there is a telegram from Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty, to the effect that I had informed him that I suspected that the Russians were meditating an advance on Constantinople and the Bosphorus, and asked (? whether he had) authority (? to move) the ships nearer (? to Constantinople). It is right that I should explain that this was meant as a private inquiry.

As at the time my telegram was sent the sudden forward movement of the Russians gave rise to the suspicion that they intended to make an attack on Constantinople, I was anxious to know whether, in the event of such an attack taking place and the squadron being urgently required here, the Admiral was authorized to bring his ships nearer to the Bosphorus, in order that I might know how to act in case of necessity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 287.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 713.) *Therapia, June 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

SAMI PASHA and Wassa Effendi, who were sent by the Porte to endeavour to prevail upon the Pomaks of the districts of Mount Rhodope to lay down their arms, have returned to Constantinople, having entirely failed in their mission. The Mussulmans, who are resisting the invasion of their country and their extermination by the Russians and Bulgarians, would not listen to reason. They told the Turkish Commissioners that they had not wantonly commenced the struggle in which they were engaged. Their brethren, they said, had given up their arms to the Russians on the assurance that they should be treated with justice, and that their lives, property, and honour should be respected. The Russians had thereupon armed the Bulgarians with these very arms and had encouraged them to fall upon the Mahommedans, whom they massacred, whose wives and daughters they outraged, and whose property and villages they destroyed. The justice which had been promised was denied them. When they complained to the Russian authorities they were insulted and handed back to the

Bulgarians. Whole villages had been destroyed, and their inhabitants exterminated or compelled to fly for their lives, abandoning all they possessed. The Mussulman population, having the limited choice left to them of being either murdered in cold blood by the Bulgarians or shot down in hot blood by the Russians, have preferred the latter alternative.

Thus the Pomaks, seeing that their fate was to die, or to be driven from their homes, and that their wives and daughters were to be outraged by Russians and Bulgarians, have resolved to perish sword in hand. As the Sultan cannot afford them protection, and they can no longer hope for justice from the Russians, they will not lay down their arms; they will rather, if there be no hope left, put their women to death and then continue the struggle to the last.

I understand that the Turkish Commissioners informed General Stalibin, the Russian Governor of Philippopolis, that, from the inquiries that they had made, they were obliged to admit that the Pomaks were justified in resisting the occupation of their country by the Russian troops and by the Bulgarians, as those who had submitted had been exposed to the most shocking treatment, and that as the Mussulmans received no protection whatever from the Russian authorities, they could not do otherwise than seek to protect themselves. They could not be called upon to lay down their arms to be massacred in cold blood and to see their wives and daughters outraged before their eyes.

The Commissioners have returned with a heartrending account of the cruelties to which the unfortunate Mahommedan population of Roumelia are subjected, not only by the Bulgarians, but by the Russians. I grieve to say that the accounts they have given to several of the foreign Embassies here are fully corroborated by the reports, official and others, that I have received from the province. When the Russian superior authorities are appealed to, they either deny the facts, or express their regret and promise inquiry and redress, but do nothing. The Bulgarian legion still massacres the unhappy Mussulman fugitives; the Bulgarian police still carry off Mussulman women and girls, sometimes even children, for the purposes of Russian officers; and the Mussulmans who are fortunate enough to be under Russian protection are still driven by Bulgarians, armed with whips, which are freely used, to labour at public works as slaves.

When, may it be asked, was such a state of things seen during Turkish rule? These "atrocities" are allowed to be perpetrated with impunity. No Christian voice is raised against them. Is it because those who perpetrate them are Christians, and those who suffer are only Mahommedans and "unspeakable" Turks?

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 288.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 714. Confidential.) *Therapia, June 3, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract from a letter dated the 24th ultimo from one of the Commissioners who was sent by the Porte to report upon the feelings and attitude of the Laz population in consequence of the demand of Russia for the surrender of Batoum. This letter has been shown to me very confidentially.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 288.

Extract from a Private Letter from Batoum.

LA population du pays ne veut pas se faire à l'idée de l'annexion à l'Empire Russe, elle est très surexcitée et un conflit peut naître à propos d'un incident quelconque. Il n'est pas facile de la maintenir dans la voie voulue. Elle attend son salut de l'Angleterre et désire renouveler une pétition dans le sens de celle qu'elle a déjà adressée. Si l'on connaissait la facilité de défense que la configuration du pays présente, que les qualités guerrières des habitants relèvent, l'Angleterre montrerait

plus de soucis pour la préservation de Batoum, qui est la clef des possessions Turques en Asie. Je n'ai pas le temps de m'en appesantir. En attendant les Russes me paraissent s'adoucir. A notre arrivée, ils sont avancés sur Livaria, que nos troupes étaient obligées d'évacuer; sur les remontrances du Mudir ils se retirèrent sur leurs anciennes positions.

No. 200.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 361. Very Confidential.) *Athens, June 3, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 361 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I had a few minutes' conversation with M. Tissot, the French Minister, yesterday, and that I told him that I did not think the Greeks would be satisfied with Crete and Samos, as their cession to Greece would not do away with the fear that the Hellenic populations on the Continent in Turkey in Europe would fall under Slav influence. He agreed with me, and said that what the Greeks wanted was a province ("ce qu'ils désirent c'est une province").

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 201.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 721. Very Confidential.) *Therapia, June 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 715 of the 3rd instant, M. Dimitri Bratiano informs me that the Roumanian Government is anxious to enter into friendly and intimate relations with the Porte, and that if a war were to take place between England and Russia it would be ready to conclude an offensive and defensive alliance with Turkey against Russia. In such case Roumania, he said, would have 50,000 picked men, thoroughly equipped, ready to take the field at once, and that in six weeks this number could be doubled. Arrangements had now been made, through an understanding with Austria, to obtain the arms and ammunition required for this additional force.

M. Bratiano told me that there existed the greatest exasperation of feeling on the part of the Roumanians against Russia, that they deeply regretted that they had joined her against Turkey, and that they were ready to resist by arms any attempt on her

part to coerce them or to interfere with their rights. He said that the Roumanian army now held very strong strategical positions, and was quite prepared to hold them against a Russian attack. He spoke with the greatest contempt of the Russian troops and of the Russian civil and military administration, which he described as far more corrupt and oppressive than that of the Turks. The Russian authorities, he stated, were acquainted with the object of his mission to Constantinople, and did their best to prevent his departure.

M. Bratiano is, I believe, known to advocate a policy for Roumania opposed to Russia, and favourable to friendly relations with Turkey. The statements he made to me may therefore be thought somewhat highly coloured. But upon this point Mr. White, who is well acquainted with him, and also is no doubt aware of the object of his mission, will be able to give your Lordship full information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 202.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 367.) *Athens, June 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to your Lordship's advice to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, that a Greek Representative should be in readiness at Berlin, that M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will start this week for Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 203.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 368. Confidential.) *Athens, June 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that on the 30th ultimo I received from Mr. Blunt a telegram dated Larissa, the 28th ultimo, informing me that the Ottoman authorities on the frontier report that seventy-nine refugee families have lately returned from Greece to their homes in the district of Donoco; and six families in that of Armyro, that 150 families have come back to the district of Karditza, and that others are anxious to do so, that they complain that Greek subordinate officials place difficulties in their way. Mr. Blunt further states that the Turkish officials are doing all they can to promote and protect the return of the refugees, that they have requested the Greek Consul at Larissa to request the Greek authorities on the frontiers to aid them in recovering large numbers of sheep and cattle stolen by the Vlachs from Turkish and Christian villages, and hidden by them in the Gamra range of mountains, and he concludes his telegram by begging me to urge the Hellenic Government to give directions that the necessary facilities in the recovery of the stolen cattle be granted. On the same day I received a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, that Mr. Blunt was about to try to bring about a meeting between Said Pasha and the Greek authorities at Lamia, which would be productive of a good effect and tend to smooth away difficulties.

On the 31st ultimo, I saw M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I communicated to him the substance of Mr. Blunt's telegram, and begged him to give orders to the frontier authorities in the sense suggested by Mr. Blunt. His Excellency said he would do so at once, and I accordingly telegraphed on the same day to Mr. Blunt, telling him that the Greek Government had promised me to renew their orders as to the stolen cattle and sheep.

I also mentioned to M. Delyanni that Mr. Blunt was anxious, with a view of smoothing away difficulties connected with the refugees, to bring about an interview between Said Pasha and the Greek authorities of Lamia, and I asked him if the Greek Government would be willing to further such a project. He replied that he would consult his colleagues on the subject. On the 3rd instant I saw M. Delyanni again, and I asked him if the Government had come to any decision on the above matter,

and he said that they had not, that he was to see the King in the course of the day, and would take His Majesty's orders on the subject.

This morning I saw Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister, and in reply to my inquiries as to the refugees, he said that according to a report from his Consul at Lamia, dated the 4th instant, a number of refugees had returned to their homes, but that there were still a good many in the Phthiotide district, and that through the branch of the National Bank at Lamia, 40,000 drachmas had just been distributed to the refugees, and that so long as they continued to receive assistance they would remain in Greece.

I mentioned to Photiades Bey Mr. Blunt's project with regard to effecting a meeting between Said Pasha and the Greek authorities at Lamia; he said that he had heard nothing from Said Pasha or his Government on the subject, and such being the case, when I saw M. Delyanni later in the day, as he did not speak to me on the subject, I thought it best not to revert to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 294.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 360. Very Confidential.)
Athens, June 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that in the course of a conversation which I had this morning with Photiadés Boy, the Turkish Minister at this Court, his Excellency told me that he had heard that the Greek Government were, a short time ago, in favour of an armistice in Crete, but that now they were anxious to see the insurrection continued, and that communications had been made to that effect to their Consular Agents in Crete. He said that their object was that Crete should be in a state of insurrection at the time the Congress met, and that the refugees from Thessaly should not all have returned to their homes, in order to give force to the complaints against Turkish rule, which he said they would endeavour to bring forward at the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 295.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 38. Consular.)
Therapia, June 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report from Dr. Dickson respecting the state of the public health in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Dr. Dickson to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, June 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the public health in Constantinople has improved during the last week. The state in which the refugees live has remained unchanged, yet sickness and death among them have increased, and the medical constitution is assuming another character, in fact changing from the typhoid to the malarious type.

Dr. Gabuzzi's account of the refugees in Puer Galata and Kassim Pasha, and especially of those along the European shore of the Bosphorus, is more favourable than it has hitherto been. From 27th May to 3rd June, the sickness among those in

these places amounted to 21 cases of typhus, 4 of small-pox, and 121 of ordinary maladies, in all 149.

Dr. Stikoulis gave a pitiable account of the refugees quartered in some parts of Stamboul, such as Oun Kapan, Tulep Khan, Yeldez Khan, and the old Municipality House. Their filthy condition was disgusting, and their sick lying by the dozen uncared for in these horrible abodes. Notwithstanding, however, these drawbacks, the general health in Stamboul has improved and the mortality has diminished. Want of funds to carry on the work of mercy is sorely felt, the subsidies promised by the Government for the maintenance of the refugees have been withheld for the last fortnight, and all medical aid is getting paralysed.

Dr. Stikoulis expresses himself in much more favourable terms with regard to the condition of the refugees along the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus. Typhus was diminishing and the cases admitted into the hospital were mild, and rapidly got well. He believes want of nourishment to have been the principal factor in the development of this serious malady, because most of the patients recovered under a simple treatment of cleanliness and improved diet. Ague has now appeared among the refugees, and ten cases of it at Scutari presented the pernicious form. The refugees lodged in the Mesgid of Anatav Hissar, and in the Conak of Alfouzade at Candilli, continue to be in a deplorable state, and furnish an increasing succession of patients. The stable of Bulbuldéré at Scutari, and of Sultan Murad at Kadikoi have, at last, been cleared out, and most of the refugees who occupied them have been conveyed to Stamboul for ultimate removal to the provinces. The colonisation of Alem Dagh by refugees has not proved successful. Four thousand of these wretched persons have been put down there and abandoned to their own resources. The natural consequence has been great disorder and the perpetration of serious crimes.

The total number of refugees at present along the Asiatic side is estimated at 27,000, and their daily mortality at 18. The cases of sickness under treatment, according to Dr. Stikoulis, are 329 of typhus, 73 of typhoid, 71 dysentery, 73 of ague, and 121 of ordinary maladies, in all 667 cases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 296.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 17. Political.)
Warsaw, June 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that an order has been issued, on the 7th instant, by the Directors of the Vistula Railway, to transport the first levy of the Opolchenie of the following Governments, viz., the district of the Cossacks of the Don, of Tamboff, Poltava, Astrachan, Stavropol, Herkoff, and the First Regiment of Daghestan Irregular Cavalry.

The above movement commenced on the 10th instant, and will continue until the 20th instant.

The troops in question, numbering about 20,000 men, are replacing those which have been lately sent to the Austrian frontier.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the order in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 297.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 18.)

Admiralty, June 17, 1878.

Sir;

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a report (forwarded by Vice-Admiral Hornby) by Lieutenant Nowell, of Her Majesty's ship "Foxhound," on the state of affairs at Dédéngatch and Enos, dated 9th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure in No. 297.

Lieutenant Nowell to Captain Salmon.

"*Foxhound*," *Gulf of Xeros, May* 9, 1878.

Sir,

IN compliance with your Memorandum of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform you:—

1. With reference to Dédéagatch, the seizure of the railway station by the Mussulman insurgents is entirely without foundation; there were originally 800 Russian troops here, 200 of which have been sent to Makri. These troops are simply employed in ordinary out-post duty.

Mr. Willshire, our Vice-Consul, has heard that 7,000 Russian troops have been sent from Adrianople to quell the outbreak in the Rhodope Balkans.

I was not allowed to land until the permission of the officer commanding the Russian troops had been obtained.

2. Arriving off Enos this forenoon, I proceeded through the lake to the town, accompanied by Sub-Lieutenant Macdonald. We were not allowed to land, were kept waiting for an hour, during which time a permission was presumedly being sought; at last we were allowed to wait in an empty room, but a Russian officer remained with us. The Vice-Consul was in the country, and although he was sent for did not make his appearance; after waiting nearly two and a-half hours, and finding I could not even speak to our Consul's interpreter privately, I considered it useless to wait longer.

The Russian forces at Enos number 2,500 men and 8 field guns.

Mr. Willshire has heard a rumour that 1,500 Cossacks are distributed along the coast in the vicinity of Enos.

3. With reference to the above-named ports, the only vessels present were small native craft.

No seamen from Adrianople have arrived, nor were there any vessels that could be used for torpedo warfare at either port; we were treated with marked coolness at both places. Regretting I could not obtain more information, I have, &c.

(Signed) N. H. G. NOWELL.

No. 298.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 165.) *Vienna, June* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN mobilization regulations to be the following:—One of the army corps enrolled in Croatia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia, and the equivalent of one division in Transylvania; in all, about 60,000 men.

No. 299.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 588.) *Therapia, June* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I CONTINUE, as do some of my colleagues, to receive protests and petitions from Greeks and Mussulmans in different parts of the territory assigned to Bulgaria by the Treaty of San Stefano, including the Black Sea coast, against being placed under Bulgarian rule. Mr. Reade and the Vice-Consul, Brophy, informed me that nothing can be worse in every way than the treatment of the Mussulmans and Greeks of their districts by Bulgarians, and they foresee a general persecution if Bulgarian rule is finally established along the Black Sea coast.

No. 300.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 589.) *Therapia, June* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 582, Baker Pasha informed me yesterday that collision between Russian and Turkish forces appeared imminent, and that the Turkish troops were under arms, prepared to resist an attack. This morning he writes me that all passed off quietly yesterday, but that preparations have to be made, which are always dangerous when two armies are in such close proximity. I am doing my best to prevent a collision, but the Turks seem to think that General Todleben wishes to provoke one. Grand Vizier said to me yesterday that unless Porte gave up Varna and Shumla, the danger of one was very great.

No. 301.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 590.) *Therapia, June* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Gallipoli:—

"Many troops, and, it is said, 200 field-pieces, passed Chorlu by rail towards Constantinople in last few days, Russians having buried ammunition near Rhodosto and Chorlu, and made depôt of food and ammunition near Tchekmedjé lines. Sickness continues."

No. 302.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 591.) *Therapia, June* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING reply has been received from Mr. Blunt to a telegram I sent him, in consequence of representations made to me by the Greek Minister:—

"*June* 17.—No arrangement (?) was made by Mr. Longworth for the neutral zone; refugees in Greek town of Sourbi who promised him to return, now refuse to do so before the Congress has settled the Greek question; meanwhile, they demand to gather their harvest, with intention to carry it to Sourbi, and try to stipulate that Turkish troops should not advance from their present positions at Armyro. Said Pasha and Rejeb will not consent to this, as it is a departure from the conditions accepted and decreed by Porte for pacification of Thessaly. I am of that opinion also. Although a large number of refugees have returned, the Committees in Greece are doing their utmost to keep them back, and have spread report that Thessaly and Epirus will be annexed to Greece."

No. 303.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 74. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, May* 29, 1878.

A GEORGIAN, Prince George Tzeretely, handed to me, on the 27th instant, a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Gardner, of Poti, dated the 9th instant, informing me that the Prince "had some important business to arrange at Trebizond, and that any assistance I could afford him would confer a favour, and be highly appreciated."

The Prince explained to me that about three weeks ago, Mr. Vice-Consul Gardner succeeded to smuggle out of Poti an important paper which he had handed him for your Lordship, but as letters from and to Poti on political matters presented too serious risks, he had decided to come here in order to place himself in more direct communication. That he had reached Trebizonde without passport, after many difficulties, and was in hopes, if he could not escape detection, to explain his presence in Turkey to his Government, by his desire to obtain information, he being one of the correspondents of the "Golos."

Prince Tzeretely informed me that he had, just before the last war, drawn up, with Sarih Effendi, the late Turkish Consul at Tiflis, a project for the emancipation of the Caucasus from Russian rule. This document had been forwarded to the Porte, by which it was to be communicated to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

The paper remitted to Mr. Vice-Consul Gardner, and the present voyage of the

Prince, are connected with the same subject, the Georgian population considering a war with Russia a most favourable opportunity to put their project into execution.

He has handed to me for transmission to your Lordship the inclosed papers written in Georgian, and translated by him into French. In the first he advocates the formation of an Armeno-Georgian United Kingdom, to serve as a barrier against future encroachments of Russia in Asia; in the second he gives complementary information on the subject.

This projected kingdom, which should comprise the Caucasus and the Turkish Provinces ceded to Russia by the Treaty of San Stefano, to be governed constitutionally by an English or an Italian Prince, under the Protectorate of Europe.

Prince Tzeretely assures me that the Mussulmans of the Caucasus, as well as the Armenians, will gladly accept this combination.

So far as Turkey is concerned, I am inclined to believe that the Laz populations will not object to this scheme. In their interviews with me, the Laz Beys did not conceal that they were far from being satisfied with the Porte, and that any change of government, even their being placed under a Christian Power, Russia excepted, would be most welcome to them.

The Laz Beys being now in communication with the Georgian Princes, as I reported in my despatch No. 73 of the 25th instant, an understanding between them, if it has not already taken place, is possible.

However, Russia in the provision perhaps that they might unite one day against her, had taken care in the last war to try to create a feeling of everlasting animosity between them, by burning down the villages of the Laz, and making it appear that it was the work of the Christian Georgians.

Prince Tzeretely assured me that all the villages in the territory of the Lazistan which they invaded were reduced to ashes by the Russian themselves, while the Georgian battalions were on the first line, and in the eyes of the Laz, appeared to be the perpetrators of the outrage.

The other Turkish districts ceded to Russia are in great part inhabited by Laz, who it may be presumed share the opinion of those of Batoum.

It is needless to say that the Armenians, who are dissatisfied with Turkish rule, would be but too happy to accept an arrangement emancipating them, and especially insuring the independence of their great Patriarch residing at Etchmiagui.

Mussulmans and Christians, contrary to the general belief, can live side by side without religious or other conflicts springing up between them. In fact, the complaints of the Christians in Turkey arise not so much from ill-treatment on the part of their neighbours, Kurds excepted, as from maladministration, of which the Mussulmans suffer themselves, in a similar, and sometimes even in a higher degree.

The Christians of different rites in this quarter live in better harmony between themselves than their co-religionists in Turkey in Europe.

The disparate elements comprized in the projected kingdom would therefore present no impediment to its formation, while its populations, whether Christian or Mussulman, would have under a Constitutional Government prospects of liberty and welfare which they can never hope to see realized as long as they remain under Russia and Turkey with their present institutions.

The Mussulman population in the Caucases, which exceeded formerly the Christian, has been much reduced within the last fifteen years by voluntary emigration in Turkey, and compulsory removal to other parts of the Russian Empire. These measures have been resorted to with a view to colonize the Caucasus by Russians, a scheme which has not succeeded, the latter having been unable hitherto to acclimatize themselves to its highlands.

The following is in round numbers the proportion of the Mussulman and Christian populations in the Caucasus, and in the Turkish Provinces intended for annexation:—

	No.
Mussulmans in Caucasus	1,000,000
" Turkish provinces	440,000
Total	1,440,000
Christians—	
Georgians	1,500,000
Armenians in Caucasus	500,000
" Turkish provinces	50,000
Total	2,050,000

The Christian element would dominate the Mussulman by 600,000 souls, or more than one-sixth, with a tendency of the former to increase by the immigration from other parts of Turkey of the Armenians, and of the Mussulman element to decrease, by the retreat of the Kurd tribes from the annexed Turkish provinces.

In the continual struggles which have taken place in Asia between Greeks and Persians, Romans and Parthians, Byzantines and Arabs, the Caucasus has always played an important part, so important indeed, that the master of Asia has always been the possessor, or the allied of the Caucasus.

That which took part in bygone times repeats itself again in the present century. The hold of Russia in the Caucasus is not yet so complete as to allow her to exercise her full power, but already her influence in Asia is such as to give serious apprehensions.

These apprehensions will be fully justified when Russia, in consequence of her experience during the last war, constructs the contemplated military roads along the shores of the Black Sea and the Caspian, and adopts such other measures as may be calculated to subjugate entirely the spirit of independence which animates still the Caucasian populations.

The formation of the projected kingdom, besides meeting the wishes of a population of 3,500,000 souls, would be an insuperable barrier to Russian encroachments, and consequently the means to protect efficiently British commerce and maintain British influence in Asia.

Should a war break out between England and Russia, Prince Tzeretely promises to furnish such information as would render an invasion of the Caucasus a comparatively easy, and certainly a successful, military operation.

A landing, he says, should be effectuated in the vicinity of Anaklia or Redout Kaleh, from which place the natives would lead the troops through easy passages, unknown to the Russians, round Suram, which is the strongest position to resist a force invading the Caucasus by sea.

The presence of 60,000 British troops would be required at first, to inspire full confidence to the Caucasians and give them time to muster, but half those troops could be withdrawn, without inconvenience, as soon as the natives are under arms.

Prince Tzeretely is anxious to know, at your Lordship's earliest convenience, whether his services may be required, in which case he will continue to remain here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 303.

Memorandum by Prince Tzeretely.

LES peuples du Caucase se divisent en deux parties: les Chrétiens et les Mahométans.

2. Les Mahométans sont pour la plus part des montagnards Caucasiens qui sont de race Géorgienne, les habitants du Daghestan et les Tartares des Gouvernements d'Elisabetopol et de Bakou qui formaient jadis partie du Royaume Géorgien. Ces peuples haïssent le Gouvernement Russe et comme ils sont toujours en état de guerre, ils profitent presque toujours de toutes les circonstances plus ou moins favorables pour prendre les armes contre les Russes.

3. Les Chrétiens sont les deux races Géorgiennes et Arméniennes. Ils sont très mécontents du Gouvernement Russe, qui leur a enlevé leur indépendance, aboli l'usage de leurs langues nationales dans les écoles, les administrations et les cours de justice, et par la mauvaise solution de la question agraire, essaie d'anéantir leurs nationalités. Par suite de cette circonstance la situation des Géorgiens et des Arméniens est devenue insupportable; mais comme ils ont peur d'être écrasés par une force terrible, ils n'osent pas se soulever seuls contre les Russes. Dans le présent conflit entre la Russie et l'Angleterre, ils tournent les yeux vers l'Europe et souhaitent que l'Angleterre déclare la guerre à la Russie. Ils espèrent trouver dans cette guerre leur indépendance en se soulevant contre la Russie avec tous les autres peuples du Caucase qui soutiendraient ainsi l'Angleterre.

4. Le peuple Géorgien désirerait restaurer son indépendance et fonder un Royaume réunissant les Géorgiens et les Arméniens dans la limite comprenant les pays du Caucase et les provinces d'Arménie qui devaient être cédées à la Russie.

5. Le Royaume réuni des Géorgiens et des Arméniens inviterait un Prince de la dynastie Anglaise ou de celle de Savoie, pour gouverner le pays d'après la Constitution, qui serait promulguée par l'Assemblée Nationale et sanctionnée par le Roi sous la protection des Etats Européens.

6. Le Gouvernement du Royaume Uni des Géorgiens et des Arméniens réglerait la question agraire en donnant à la noblesse Géorgienne pour chaque lot de terrain cédé aux paysans, une moyenne de 500 roubles ou 76 livres sterling. Pour subvenir à cette dépense le Gouvernement du Royaume Uni des Géorgiens et des Arméniens devrait obtenir un crédit de 3,000,000 de livres sterling en Angleterre, et l'amortirait peu à peu par une partie des impôts que paieraient les paysans affranchis.

7. Les troupes de l'Angleterre et celles de ses alliés devraient débarquer sur la côte de la Géorgie en publiant le présent programme et aussitôt qu'elles occuperaient une partie du territoire Géorgien, il s'y instituerait un Gouvernement provisoire, dont les membres seraient les hommes marquants indigènes.

8. Le Gouvernement provisoire des Géorgiens et des Arméniens répandrait une proclamation en langue Géorgienne dans laquelle il déclarerait l'indépendance de tous les peuples du Caucase, la fondation du Royaume Uni des Géorgiens et des Arméniens sous la protection des Etats Européens et promettant la concession de lots de terrains aux paysans Géorgiens affranchis. Après ces faits le peuple Géorgien se soulevera contre les Russes et entraînera avec lui tous les peuples du Caucase, attendu qu'il exerce depuis longtemps une grande influence sur ces derniers à cause de son état de culture intellectuelle.

9. Le Gouvernement Anglais devrait fournir des armes et des munitions.

10. Les Russes ainsi chassés au delà de la grande chaîne de Caucase seraient privés de leur grande base d'influence sur l'Asie Mineure et l'Asie Centrale; leur influence sur les affaires d'Orient serait par ce fait tout à fait effacée.

11. Le Royaume Uni des Géorgiens et des Arméniens deviendrait pour la politique Russe une barrière infranchissable, qui arracherait la Mer Noire et la Mer Caspienne de ses mains, isolerait la Perse et procurerait à l'Europe et surtout à l'Angleterre un chemin pour agrandir son commerce et son influence politique en Asie.

Inclosure 2 in No. 303.

Supplementary Memorandum by Prince Tzeretely.

LA situation actuelle de la Russie est très mauvaise. Ses armées et ses finances sont complétement épuisées. Quand le Gouvernement Russe commença la guerre contre la Turquie il croyait qu'il pourrait avec 300,000 hommes se rendre maître de Constantinople en un mois; et qu'à la suite d'une nouvelle Convention, conclue seulement avec la Sublime Porte, il serait devenu maître du Détroit des Dardanelles et prépondérant dans les affaires de l'Orient.

Le Gouvernement Russe ne prit cette décision audacieuse qu'au moment où devenu maître absolu du Caucase, il commandait la Mer Noire de trois côtés et que par ce fait le Caucase offrait une base stratégique solide, et d'influence politique sur l'Asie.

En s'appuyant sur cette base il désirait d'un côté ouvrir à ses navires de guerre le Détroit des Dardanelles et d'un autre côté couper dans l'Asie Mineure aux Européens les éléments d'influence politique en Orient. Mais la guerre déclarée contre la Turquie, au lieu d'un ou deux mois, se prolongea un an, au lieu de 300,000 hommes il fut nécessaire de mettre en campagne 600,000 hommes, et il se trouva que le Caucase lui-même n'était pas une base aussi solide qu'on le croyait.

Quand le Gouvernement Russe poussa ses troupes vers Kars et Erzeroum, tout le Daghestan et les montagnards du Caucase se révoltèrent sur leur arrière; les Tartares des Gouvernements de Bakou et d'Elisabetopol commencèrent à s'inquiéter; le peuple Géorgien lui-même tourna ses regards vers l'Europe, et si l'Angleterre avait alors déclaré la guerre, tout le peuple Géorgien se serait mis de son côté et aurait entraîné dans sa marche tous les peuples du Caucase.

Après le Traité de San Stéfano la marche des événements s'arrêta; 90,000 hommes de troupes Russes sont tombés sur le champ de bataille; 150,000 sont morts du typhus et d'autres maladies contagieuses; le reste est devenu incapable de soutenir une nouvelle guerre. En ce moment la force militaire de la Russie est déchue complétement et le Trésor public est tellement vide que le Gouvernement Russe n'a aucune ressource pour organiser ses forces militaires pour une nouvelle guerre.

Les peuples du Caucase commencent à s'agiter de nouveau; ils veulent s'entendre avec l'Angleterre pour délivrer le Caucase du joug insupportable du Gouvernement Russe.

Le Gouvernement Russe le sent bien et redoute cette situation dangereuse. Voilà pourquoi il désire la paix à tout prix.

Il sait bien que si une nouvelle guerre commençait il perdrait le Caucase, la Mer Noire et la Caspienne, par conséquent toute son influence en Orient.

Dans la guerre passée tout le Caucase a été fermé pendant six mois à la Russie par suite d'un éboulement qu'a eu lieu au mois de Septembre dernier sur la seule chaussée qui réunit la Russie au Caucase.

Si des troupes Anglaises environ 60,000 hommes eussent débarqué alors sur la côte de la Géorgie, toutes les troupes Russes sous le commandement du Grand Duc Michel auraient été faites prisonnières; un débarquement de troupes Turques n'aurait pas obtenu le même résultat parce que les Georgiens Chrétiens craignent l'influence qu'exercerait la religion Mahométane.

Le désir ardent du Gouvernement Russe est qu'il y ait la paix, afin de se vouer à l'anéantissement de l'idée nationale dans la population du Caucase. Les peuples qui résisteront à ce travail brutal du Gouvernement Russe seront obligés d'émigrer ou bien seront déportés dans les steppes de la Russie boréale et de la Sibérie; leurs contrées seront colonisés par les Russes afin que dans toute lutte future contre des Etats Européens le Gouvernement Russe n'ait aucune appréhension du côté du Caucase.

Si le Gouvernement Russe réussit à présent à maintenir la paix même à tout prix et à conserver ses conquêtes de la dernière guerre, 25 ou 30 ans après, quand il aura réorganisé complétement ses forces militaires, il aura exterminé les peuples qui s'opposent à ses vues dans le Caucase et l'aura colonisé par des Russes; ainsi l'influence politique des Etats Européens et leur commerce dans l'Asie seront complétement effacés.

Si l'on peut affranchir le Caucase c'est dans ce moment-ci, ou jamais.

En présence de ces faits et dans l'intérêt même de l'Angleterre, il est nécessaire de finir le conflit actuel par une nouvelle guerre contre la Russie. Cette guerre doit avoir pour but de détacher le Caucase de la Russie. Mais pour mener à bonne fin cette entreprise importante il est nécessaire de cimenter une union étroite avec le peuple Géorgien. Cela peut être accomplie par les mesures suivantes. 1. En fondant à Batoum ou bien à Trébizonde une imprimerie Géorgienne ou même, pour commencer, une lithographie qui fournirait au camp Anglais, pour être distribué au peuple Géorgien, le programme de la restauration du Royaume Géorgien. 2. En établissant des relations suivies entre les gens de lettres Géorgiens, qui agiront au moyen de la presse Géorgienne dans le camp Anglais et la population Géorgienne, afin de promulguer le but de l'Angleterre relativement aux populations Caucasiennes.

Tous les hommes éclairés et intelligents sont prêts à donner à tous les peuples du Caucase une impulsion générale et déterminée.

Il est facile de mettre en exécution toutes ces mesures dans un court espace de temps si le Gouvernement Anglais fournit les moyens nécessaires.

No. 304.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 79. Political.)

Trebizond, June 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I MENTIONED in my despatch to your Lordship, No. 74 of the 20th ultimo, that I presumed that the populations of the other districts to be ceded by Turkey to Russia shared the opinion of the Laz of Batoum.

The Pasha of Trebizond has shown me an Address, dated 3d ultimo, signed by seventy-six of the leading inhabitants of the districts in the vicinity of Ardanuch, declaring to the Porte that they will not submit to the Russians, but will join the Laz of Batoum to oppose them.

Prince George Tzeretely has informed me that the whole Russian forces in the Caucasus and Armenia is between 50,000 and 55,000 men. Of these, 4,000 are at Tsolooksoo, 2,000 at Pasków, 2,000 at Artwin, as many at Ardahan, and the remainder at Kars, Erzeroum, and in the Caucasus.

According to my information, the Russian troops in and around Erzeroum, being

about 12,000, and those at Kars 14,000, there would remain for garrison and other duty in the Caucasus between 14,000 and 19,000 men, who could not be employed on other service.

Under these circumstances, an attack on Batoum by the Russians could not be followed by success if the Turkish authorities there are really decided not to give up the place.

It would seem that Koord Ismail Pasha had protested against the occupation of Artwin by the Russians, and sent nine or ten battalions of Turkish troops from Erzinghian to Ispir to give more weight to his protest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 305.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 722.) *Therapia, June* 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk forwarding to me a report on the Russian forces in the district of Bazardjik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 305.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, June 1, 1878.

Sir,

THE person I engaged to obtain information for me from Bazardjik has just returned, and I have the honour to inclose what I drew up from the notes he took.

He got most of his intelligence from a Dalmatian Slav, who is employed by and devoted to the Russians, and with whom my informant was on most intimate terms a couple of years ago at Galatz. As he went to Bazardjik to prosecute a commercial claim of another here, he was not suspected, and he took no notes except when alone.

As regards the Bazardjik district, including the Dobrudja and Silistria, the inclosed may be relied upon, but as the Russians are constantly moving their troops about, their numbers may change slightly.

With respect to the other duties I will shortly go up to Shumla, and I will there get all the information that is possible, and will forward it to your Excellency at once.

There have been no Russian troops at Pravady for some weeks. I have been informed from head-quarters here that it has been satisfactorily ascertained that the Russians have only about 60 battalions in the whole vilayet. The Turks continue to assure me that they have no intention of evacuating Shumla or Varna, but I hear that General Fazli Pasha, of the latter place, complains of the late reduction of his force, which till last week was thirty-five battalions, of which ten have been taken to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 305.

Report on Russians at Bazardjik, up to the 1st June, 1878.

THE Commander-in-chief is General Zjukoff, vice General Zimmermann who, it is said, has been summoned to St. Petersburgh to give an account of why, on his taking Bazardjik, no guns or anything were taken, and which at head-quarters, it is thought, with the army under his command, he could have done. It is thought, however, by the Russian officers at Bazardjik that he will give a satisfactory account, and that he will resume his command should war break out.

At Bazardjik the Russians have two batteries of field artillery in the town, and four in the surrounding villages.

There are two regiments of dragoons and two of Cossacks.

Of infantry there, the 2nd and 17th Corps d'Armée are complete, also the "Alexandra Guards." There are also parts of the 15 D. and 2nd P., and the P. corps; what these letters mean, my informant could not learn without giving cause for suspicion.

Altogether there are about 17,000 troops of all arms at Bazardjik and the surrounding villages; most of the troops moved out when the grass was fit for the horses.

At Medjidié there are two batteries of artillery, and at Tchernavoda four batteries and one regiment of Cossacks.

At Kustendji one regiment infantry, and at Baltchik one half regiment. There are no siege guns at the places named, but at Silistria there are heavy guns ready to be moved in case of war.

Two squadrons cavalry are on their way from Galatz to Bazardjik. The Russians have constructed some new earthworks round Bazardjik, and repaired all the old ones left by the Egyptians. The last contract made by the Russians was for three months, but my informant could not tell me when it terminates. The Civil Governor of Bazardjik is a Russian named Colonel Fischer, assisted by a Captain Moyisco.

There is only one tribunal, and composed entirely of Bulgars, but all their sentences require the confirmation of Colonel Fischer, or in his absence of Captain Moyisco. The police are Russian soldiers, no Bulgars.

On the capture of Bazardjik the Bulgars and the Cossacks totally destroyed the Tartar quarter, and of the ruins temporary stables were arranged, but most of the wood work was taken for fuel. The mosques were destroyed, and the others taken for quarters for the soldiers. One alone was left for the Mussulmans who, on all fête days, are compelled to hoist Russian flags on the minarets. This is a subject of great merriment to the Bulgars. The Mussulmans, and also the few Greeks and Armenians at Bazardjik, are being continually grossly ill-treated by the Bulgars, with the connivance of the Russians, who are doing their best to drive away by ill-treatment all but Bulgars. All those with any means have been already driven off, and the existence of those that remain is painful in the extreme. Every now and then a murder takes place of a Mussulman, whose friends have ceased to have recourse to the Russians. If any but a Bulgar opens a shop, he is so taxed that he is soon compelled to close it. The Customs' officer (a Russian) follows no tariff, but imposes on all articles whatever he thinks proper. The provisions for the Russians are brought by steamers to Baltchik, and from thence they are taken to Bazardjik.

No recruiting of Bulgars as soldiers or gendarmes has as yet taken place, but my informant heard this talked of by the Russians.

The Russians in general are very discontented and tired of their present position. Most of them are constantly wishing to return to Russia. My informant states that all the rumours spread about the Russians are empty ones, and appeared to amuse some of the Russians he said, who do not appear to entertain any idea on the subject, nor are they making the slightest preparation.

No. 306.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 723.) *Therapia, June* 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, respecting the state of affairs in the district of Provesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 306.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Provesa, May 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the Greek insurgents, who were released at Janina, in accordance with the amnesty granted by the Ottoman Government, arrived at Provesa on Monday last, the 20th instant, and left for Santa Maura on the following day.

I regret to have to mention that public safety in Epirus appears to be far from satisfactory. The existence of several bands of brigands can no longer be doubted. The day before yesterday news reached us that a Kaïmakam, while proceeding from Metsovo to Conitza, was attacked by a band of brigands and murdered, together with three of four zaptiehs who accompanied him; a souvari, who who was one of his escort, was the only man that escaped.

I hear from a trustworthy source that the brigand chiefs, Stupas and Mariolis, with their followers, had a few days ago crossed over to Greece, but were compelled to recross the frontier. No transports having as yet arrived on this coast for the conveyance of the troops to Constantinople, the troops at Janina have not been despatched hither.

M. Onofrio called here late on Thursday last on his way back to Santa Maura, viâ Vonitza, having accomplished his mission in connection with the Christian refugees, and who have commenced to return to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 306.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, June 1, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th ultimo, relative to the state of public security in Epirus, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of a despatch from M. Kypriotis, dated the 20th ultimo, having reference to the same subject. I avail myself of this opportunity to report to your Excellency that the troops from Janina, as well as a battalion of Albanian Redifs (Berat) from Arta, have arrived here during last week. The transports that are to convey them to Constantinople have also arrived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 306.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Janina, May 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that last week the Kaïmakam of Nitzovo, while returning to this post from Greveno, was murdered, together with three or four of his followers, by a band of brigands.

On the 17th a band of brigands entered Pagia, a village of Zagori, plundered three houses, and ill-treated and mutilated several women who were in the above-mentioned houses. It is said that they even made a prisoner.

From all sides news reach us of acts of brigandage that are being committed.

(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 307.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 724.)

Therapia, June 5, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 700 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose translation of the documents forwarded to me by Colonel St. Clair, and which I was unable to have prepared in time for the last messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 307.

Letter from the Representative of the Archbishop of Xanthi respecting the District of Ahi-Tchelibi.

(Traduction en résumé.)

Le $\frac{9}{18}$ *Mai*, 1878.

LE Vicaire de l'Archevêque de Xanthi, parlant du district d'Ahi-Tchelibi, raconte les méfaits commis par les Bulgares à l'égard des Grecs, tels que violation de femmes, extortion de l'argent, et autres, et conclut en déclarant que ses ouailles n'ont rien souffert jusqu'à présent de la part de leurs concitoyens Musulmans.

(Signé) SOFRONIOS,
Vicaire de l'Archevêque de Xanthi.

Inclosure 2 in No. 307.

Certificate from Inhabitants of six Villages of Ahi-Tchelibi as to good conduct of Mussulmans.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants des différents villages du Caza Ahi-Tchelibi, confirmons par le présent que nos concitoyens et voisins Musulmans ne nous ont jamais fait aucun mal, et qu'ils n'ont commis aucun désordre, tel que d'enlever notre propriété, de violer notre domicile et d'attenter à l'honneur de nos femmes. Bref, ils ne nous ont causé aucun dommage. En foi de quoi nous signons.

(Suivent les noms de six villages.)

Le $\frac{9}{18}$ *Mai*, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 307.

Petition for British Protection from Inhabitants of Ahi-Tchelibi.

(Traduction.)

A l'Honorable Ambassade d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

LES Soussignés étant les représentants des habitants Musulmans et Grecs du Caza d'Ahi-Tchelibi, dépendance de Philippopoli, ont l'honneur de présenter cette humble requête à l'Angleterre, de même qu'ils l'ont fait aux autres Cabinets.

Ils disent qu'ayant été abandonnés par leurs autorités et étant exposés aux déprédations des Bulgares, ils ont dû prendre les armes pour se défendre. Ils ajoutent qu'ils n'ont aucune confiance aux Bulgares et aux Russes, qu'ils sont de paisibles Pomaks qui ont toujours vécu en bonne harmonie avec leurs concitoyens Grecs et Bulgares, et désirent vivre ainsi à l'avenir. Ils concluent en disant que, vu les préoccupations présentes de leur Souverain, sous la sujétion de qui ils veulent toujours rester, ils ont recours à l'Angleterre en la suppliant de les protéger.

Le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Mai*, 1878.

(Suivent cinq sceaux des Membres du Conseil et la signature du Vicaire Grec.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 307.

Certificate from Inhabitants of Carlicovo as to good conduct of Turks.

(Traduction du Bulgare.)

NOUS faisons savoir, nous les habitants du village Carlicovo, que les Pachas, lors de leur passage par notre village, ne nous ont causé aucun mal. Nous en faisons part à l'autorité afin qu'elle nous protége des scélérats, et nous apposons à ce certificat le sceau de notre village.

Carlicovo, le 5 *Mai*, 1878.

Inclosure 5 in No. 307.

Certificate from Inhabitants of Petravo as to good conduct of Turks.

(Traduction du Bulgare.)

NOUS faisons savoir, nous les habitants de ce village, que les Pachas, lors de leur passage à notre village, ne nous ont causé aucun mal, en foi de quoi nous délivrons le présent certificat, cacheté du sceau de notre village.

Petravo, le 5 Mai, 1878.

No. 308.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 725.) *Therapia, June 5*, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 349 of the 3rd April last, in which I informed your Lordship that Nouri Agha, the man referred to in the Earl of Derby's despatch No. 353 of the 12th March last, had been arrested and imprisoned, I have now the honour to inclose copy of a memorandum by Mr. Dragoman Marinitch, in which it is stated that Nouri Agha's interrogatory has been concluded, and that the charges brought against him having been proved he will now be tried before the proper Tribunal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Memorandum.

LE Ministère de la Police a informé le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, en date du 20 courant, que le nommé Nouri Agha, qui s'était rendu coupable de méfaits envers les populations de Roum Yeni-Keuy, a subi son interrogatoire. Bien qu'il ait persisté à nier les faits dont il s'était accusé, sa culpabilité a pu être établie.

Le dossier de cet individu, qui a été reconnu coupable de crimes envers les particuliers, a été transmis au Ministère de la Justice pour être jugé par devant l'un des Tribunaux de la Justice Pénale. Le Ministère de l'Adlie a déjà référé l'affaire au Tribunal Criminal de Première Instance de la Capitale. Nouri Agha se trouve en prison depuis le 18 du mois de Mouharrem.

(Signé) H. MARINITCH.

Pera, le 28 Mai, 1878.

No. 309.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 726.) *Therapia, June 5*, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of three petitions I have received from the inhabitants of Monastir, Roumelia, and Sonitcha, protesting against their countries being included in the New Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 309.

Protest from Inhabitants of Monastir against their Country being included in New Bulgaria.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Très Honorable A. H. Layard, Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

CECI est le protêt des habitants de tous les districts du vilayet du Monastir. Nous avons vu dans les journaux que dans le Traité de San Stéfano cette contrée-ci

fut incorporé à la Bulgarie. Ce fait extraordinaire, dont nous ne pouvions même imaginer la possibilité, a plongé les habitants de ce pays dans une abîme d'anxiété et dans la stupéfaction.

Ainsi qu'il est rapporté dans les livres d'histoire, on rencontre dans notre vilayet de Monastir par ci, par là, quelques Bulgares venus de la Bulgarie, mais ils ne sont pas d'anciens habitants de ce pays, et la plupart d'entre eux sont soumis au Patriarcat Grec. Quant aux intrigants et sots qui, achetés par la Russie, sont considérés par elle comme des Bulgares, comparés aux Musulmans, Grecs, et Juifs du pays, ne sont que dans la proportion d'un à quatre, de sorte qu'il est contraire au droit des gens et à la justice, que notre pays soit considéré comme faisant partie de la Bulgarie, et ce serait annihiler arbitrairement notre nationalité dans l'intérêt illégal de quelques intrigants achetés avec l'argent Russe, et dont le nombre est nul à côté de nous.

Ainsi plutôt que de nous soumettre à une telle décision illégale et de livrer, sans rime ni raison, notre vieille et chère patrie aux mains de l'étranger et à une peuplade sauvage telle que les Bulgares, il serait préférable et glorieux que nous fussions tous détruits ensemble, avec nos femmes et nos enfants, en conservant notre honneur, et en laissant dans l'histoire un exemple frappant aux générations futures. Si l'affaire des frontières est certaine, nous protestons, dès à présent, et nous sollicitons de la justice de l'auguste Gouvernement représenté par votre Excellence de ne pas permettre que pour une chose pareille, qui est contraire à la civilisation, à l'humanité, et à la justice, le sang coule à flots et la Roumélie soit dépeuplée, mais d'obtenir, dès à présent, que notre pays soit laissé en dehors des frontières de la Bulgarie.

Le $\frac{24}{\text{Mai}}$, 1878.

(Suivent un millier de signatures et de sceaux de Musulmans, Grecs, et Juifs.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 309.

Petition from Refugees from Roumelia.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

EN vertu du Traité de San Stefano une nouvelle Bulgarie a été créée, et notre pays a été compris dans ce nouvel Etat. L'injustice de cette mesure ayant été reconnue par les Européens, nous nous empressons de soumettre aux Cabinets de l'Europe les considérations suivantes :—

1. Le Gouvernement Ottoman, en signant le Traité en question sous la pression de la Russie et afin d'arrêter l'effusion du sang, n'a point entendu sacrifier pour cela les droits civiles et naturels des habitants.

2. De même que dans d'autres villages, l'élément Musulman chez nous est de beaucoup supérieur aux Bulgares qui, n'ayant jamais montré des tendances à se civiliser, sont incapables d'occuper une position politique et de progresser, tandis que les Musulmans, qui sont possesseurs de terrains et propriétaires d'immeubles, sont aptes à occuper une position politique et d'administrer le pays sans empêcher les autres populations de se développer et de se civiliser. La preuve en est que pendant quatre siècles ils ont administré le pays en maintenant la liberté politique et religieuse de tout le monde.

3. La création d'une administration Bulgare privée de toute qualité civilisatrice et progressiste aura pour résultat certain celui de perpétuer les dissensions entre les différentes races, ainsi que cela a lieu actuellement, et d'ailleurs une administration Bulgare ne serait autre chose qu'une administration Russe sous laquelle l'injustice et l'oppression seraient l'ordre du jour.

Par conséquent nous les soussignés qui exposons ce qui précède ne pouvant pas consentir à ce que nos droits soient anéantis sous la domination Bulgare, nous y protestons de la manière la plus formelle et nous nous réservons de recourir à tous les moyens possibles pour la préservation de nos droits en comptant d'abord sur l'assistance divine et ensuite sur celle de l'Europe, et étant persuadés que les Européens, prenant en considération que nous sommes aussi des créatures de Dieu, ne refuseront d'avoir pitié de nous et de nous venir en aide, nous espérons que notre lien avec notre Gouvernement ne sera nullement altéré et que notre avenir sera garanti d'une manière juste et équitable. Nous comptons pour cela sur la justice de l'Europe. Des suppliques identiques à celle-ci ayant été présentées aux Ambassades d'Allemagne,

d'Autriche, de France, et d'Italie, nous prions votre Excellence de vouloir bien de son côté en faire part à son auguste Gouvernement.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ *Mai*, 1878.

(Suivent 250 signatures des réfugiés de différentes villes de Roumélie.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 309.

Protest of Inhabitants of Senitcha, Yeni-Bazar, against proposed Annexation of their Country.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)
A l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

NOUS voyons depuis quelque temps avec regret dans les journaux que d'après le Traité de San Stefano une partie de notre pays est cédée à la Serbie, et une autre partie à la Bulgarie et au Monténégro. Or les habitants de notre sandjac sont Musulmans pour plus de la moitié et quant à l'autre moitié qui est Chrétienne, la majeure partie en est Grecque de religion, et parle Albanais. Ainsi il n'y a entre nous et les Slaves aucune affinité de religion, de langue ou de nationalité nécessitant notre annexion à leur administration, et votre Excellence sait parfaitement bien combien le susdit Traité est injuste et sous la pression de quelles circonstances la Sublime Porte a dû la signer. Cet arrangement, que nous n'acceptons pas, détruit notre avenir en nous séparant arbitrairement de notre patrie, de notre Gouvernement et de notre nation. C'est pourquoi nous protestons contre cela et nous nous en référons à la justice des Puissances Européennes en exposant les actes sauvages commis par les Slaves partout dans notre pays où ils ont mis le pied, tel que de tuer des enfants à la mamelle, de déshonorer des femmes, d'enlever aux hommes aisés leurs propriétés, leurs fournitures, leurs grains et leurs bestiaux, de leur infliger des tourments et de vilipender les lieux de prière et de sepulture. En outre, les propriétés qui nous possédons de père en fils depuis que ce pays a été habité, sont en partie cultivées par les propriétaires eux-mêmes et en partie par des ailerniers, ainsi que cela se pratique partout en Europe. Or, les Serbiens, à l'encontre de toute règle de justice, veulent nous priver de nos droits de propriété en les faisant garder à vue par des gendarmes et s'emparer de notre pays, ainsi que cela a été constaté par le Consul Anglais, qui est venu, il y a deux mois, ici et s'en est retourné, et par le Consul Autrichien, qui est encore parmi nous. L'armistice ne les a pas empêchés de venir jusqu'à nos districts, de s'emparer de l'ancienne route de Bosnie pour enlever des bestiaux, commettre d'autres rapines, et assassiner. A cause de ces actes, qu'aucune conscience ne saurait tolérer, les districts de Yeni-Bazar, Senitcha et spécialement celui de Yeni-Varoucheé, se trouvant dans une condition déplorable et, pour ainsi dire, dans un état de siége. Bref, la vie, l'honneur et la propriété des Musulmans, laissées à la merci des passions sauvages des Slaves, furent ruinées. Ainsi pour ne rester non une minute mais pas même une seconde sous l'administration Slave, qui est l'ennemie de notre existance, nous sommes décidés à employer tous les moyens possibles de verser la dernière goutte de notre sang, et plutôt que de vivre sous le Gouvernement de Princes tyrans et oppresseurs et dont l'administration présente et future n'est basée sur aucune règle ou loi, d'offrir notre vie en holocauste à l'autel de notre chère patrie.

Pour exécuter cette décision nous avons pris l'engagement sacré de continuer à nous opposer par les armes, en nous appuyant sur nos droits et sur la justice à l'invasion éventuelle de notre pays par les Slaves. Cependant nous avons cru en attendant devoir faire appel à la justice des Grandes Puissances pour qu'elles empêchent dès à présent la réalisation du projet d'annexion et pour que les Serbes cessent de faire garder à vue nos propriétés. Dans ce but nous venons prier votre Excellence de faire parvenir notre appel en secours à votre auguste Gouvernement, afin qu'il veuille dans sa mansuétude co-opérer à tout ce qui peut préserver de toute atteinte notre liberté et notre pays. Ceux qui signent de notre part par procuration cette humble supplique devront, le cas échéant, se rendre personnellement à toutes les capitales de l'Europe pour plaider notre cause qui, en attendant, ne manquera pas, nous aimons à l'espérer, de devenir l'objet de la sollicitude charitable des Puissances, et que des mesures immédiates seront prises pour faire ce qui est nécessaire.

Les fondés-de-pouvoir des habitants du Liva de Yeni-Bazar.

Le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Mai*, 1878.

(Suivent neuf signatures.)

No. 310.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 727.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, respecting the insurrection in the Rhodope Mountains, and other matters of interest which have occurred in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 310.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopoli, May 28, 1878.

THE Russians appear to be carrying out their threat of attacking the insurgents. An official telegram was received here from Tatar-Bazardjik to-day, announcing that the Russian troops assaulted and carried the village and heights of Softeshli (described as being a particularly strong position, and said to have been deemed impregnable by the insurgents).

Ten companies of infantry took part in the assault, and their losses, according to the official account, are set down at one man wounded; those of the insurgents are not stated. The same telegram states that the Russian forces had pushed on to Tchoukourkeui, and were preparing to attack Dewlen.

There seems to have also been some rather severe fighting south of Stanimak, as 45 wounded were brought into Philippopolis from that direction yesterday and to-day, but nothing is known as to the particulars.

The Russian authorities state that they have discovered letters addressed to the insurgents, and urging them to hold out, from Hafouz Nouri Effendi, Hadji Ahmet Pasha, and Hadji Rashid Effendi, three Turkish notables of this town, who are now in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 310.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, May 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Prince Doudoukoff-Korsakoff, who was expected here yesterday, has not yet arrived, and that it is now known that he will not come here until the questions in dispute regarding the Treaty of San Stefano have been definitively decided. The Prince appears to have received telegraphic orders from St. Petersburgh to this effect.

The preparations for his reception were being actively pushed on until yesterday, when they were stopped. Even the mosques had been decorated with flags, and three native officers of the Bulgarian Legion had rehearsed in public, at the railway station, the speeches which they were to deliver to the "Imperial Commissioner for Bulgaria" on his arrival.

I am informed that there is some talk among the Bulgarians here of sending a deputation to England to appeal against the limitation of the boundaries of Bulgaria, and I have reason to believe that the Russians are cognizant of, and do not discourage, the proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 310.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 30, 1878.

Sir,

I AM now in a position to affirm that both the fighting at Pawlowo, where a small Russian force was attacked on the 24th instant, and the affairs at Softestili, were far more important than the Russian authorities will admit.

I hear on credible authority that the Russians lost sixty men in killed and wounded at Pawlowo, and that the fate of the remainder of the Russian force in that locality, amounting to 140 men, is not known, they having been surrounded, and either killed or taken prisoners.

At Softestili likewise the losses of the Russians are said to have been considerable. A Russian doctor told me yesterday that they amounted to 3 killed, 5 wounded, and 15 "missing." Other accounts set them down at between 200 and 300. This last is probably an exaggerated estimate; but I learn that 60 wounded were brought into Philippopolis yesterday from Softestili. The total Russian losses at that place may, I think, be put at about 100 men.

Of the fighting south of Stanimak absolutely nothing has as yet transpired. The Russian officers speak confidently of taking position after position from the insurgents; but, if the latter have any leaders accustomed to mountain warfare, as carried on in Crete and Montenegro, they will only defend a position as long as they can inflict loss upon their assailants without danger to themselves, retiring when hard pressed, and making a stand in another locality.

The advance of the Russians into the heart of the insurgent country has been followed, as in the Hasskieui district, by the burning of Turkish villages. Those of Softestili, Drenowa, and Gunduz-Mahalessi were destroyed by the Russians after the insurgents had been driven out from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 311.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 728.) *Therapia, June* 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a report from the Mudir of Messemvria, a small town in the district of Bourgas, respecting the treatment of the Mussulman inhabitants of Kara Agatch by the Russians and Bulgarians, and also copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto reporting attacks upon Turkish villages by armed bands of Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 311.

Report from the Mudir of Messemvria.

(Traduction.)

DES informations ayant été reçues comme quoi huit Bulgares ont été tués et un a été blessé, appartenant au village d'Eski-Pasli, à deux heures de distance d'Ahyoli (Anchialos), un prétexte fut mis en avant comme quoi les assassins en étaient les Musulmans de Cara Agatch, qui est un village au-delà de la ligne de démarcation. Là dessus un des membres du Conseil d'Ahyoli, le nommé Petraki, un Grec de Yeni-kioï, accompagné du Caïmacam nommé par les Russes, de 150 soldats et d'une foule de gens des Comités Bulgares, s'est rendu au susdit village de Cara Agatch, qui fut cerné pendant la nuit. Le matin on pénétra dans le village et on y garrota tous les Musulmans, depuis l'enfant de 15 ans jusqu'au vieillard de 90 ans, on les expédiant ensuite à Ahyoli. Il n'en resta plus dans le village qu'un vieillard de 80 ans et un aveugle. La fourniture des maisons fut pillée par les Russes et les Bulgares et rendue à Ahyoli. On outragea les femmes et on emporta le bétail. Quant aux prisonniers Musulmans, on les suspendit par les bras, de manière à ce qu'à peine leurs doigts

puissent toucher à terre et on leur infligea toute espèce de tourments. La cause de tout cela est que le susdit Petraki avait une rancune contre les habitants du susdit village à la suite d'un procès qu'il avait eu avec eux, il y a deux ans, pour un pâturage. C'est lui qui souleva les femmes Bulgares d'Eski-Pasli contre les habitants de Cara Agatch. C'est lui qui leur recommanda de dire que les assassins de leurs hommes étaient les tels et tels de Cara Agatch. Or il est certain que le susdit village se trouve d'abord de l'autre côté de la ligne de démarcation et qu'ensuite les habitants se trouve sous le commandement Russe et n'ont eu aucune connaissance de ce qui est arrivé. Malgré cela, sur la simple indication des femmes Bulgares, excitées par Petraki, sept des hommes arrêtés et garrotés furent mis aux fers et les autres emprisonnés. En attendant afin de mettre à l'abri les familles de ces pauvres hommes, les habitants d'Arnaouttar, d'Emir, et de Betadjie, dûrent les prendre chez eux. En outre les semailles des Musulmans, quoique non encore mûries, sont fauchées et transportées sur des chariots, pour servir de pâture aux chevaux de cavalerie des différents districts, et quant à la cavalerie qui se trouve dans ce district, elle met ses chevaux en pâturage dans les champs et elle inflige toute espèce de vexation aux habitants qui se trouvent en dedans de la susdite limite. Les notables Grecs des districts d'Ahyoli et de Messemvrie sont arbitrairement forcés de signer des papiers en blanc. La Mosquée de Messemvrie et les maisons Musulmanes en sont démolies à la hache et brûlées. Le feu ayant été mis aux villages de Baldji et Osman, du district d'Ahyoli, les habitants s'en sont dispersés. Les Russes ayant enrôlé des soldats parmi les Bulgares en deçà de la ligne de démarcation, à savoir, 36 à Erguetche, 57 à Sondjouli, 38 à Avramnan, 5 à Guldiler, 10 à Beracli, 5 à Quishla-Déré, et 3 à Altchar-Déré, en tout 154, envoyèrent des délégués pour les ramasser. Ceux qui furent enrôlés à Avramnan, Beracli, et Quishla-Déré, partirent de leur plein gré, mais les habitants des autres villages ont répondu aux délégués des Russes qu'ils ne donneront pas un seul homme. Je vous envois ci-incluses pour votre examen deux des tezkérés envoyées par le Caïmacam du district d'Aïdos, nommé par les Russes, aux villages qui sont, soit en deçà soit en delà de la ligne de démarcation.

Le $\frac{27 \text{ Avril}}{11 \text{ Mai}}$, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 311.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le* 31 *Mai*, 1878.

DEPUIS Dimanche les Chrétiens et Bulgares des villages Akindjili, Calivia, Dévedjikeuy, Haskéui, Tinit-keuy, Kurtulu, Dolou-keuy, Chaïnkeuy, Malgara, des communes de Malgara, Hafrabol, et Ouzoun-Keupru, ont formé une bande armée de fusils, de 3,000 hommes, sous le commandement de Tcholak Parasko, de Kurtulu. D'autre part les villages d'Essendik, Palamout, Kiestembol, Indje-keuy, de la commune de Charkeuy, ont formé également une troupe. Ces bandes, étendard blanc en tête, parcourent les communes de Malgara, Hafrabol, Charkeuy, et le district de Rodosto, portant le désespoir et l'épouvante avec elle, se ruant sur les villages Turcs qu'elles mettent en sang et cendre. La population Musulmane fuit en masse devant ce fléau d'un nouveau genre. Il est de notoriété publique que plusieurs villages ont été brûlés et pillés. Parmi les réfugiés qui nous arrivent en masse, il y a bon nombre de blessés. A Batkin, onze personnes ont été tuées et quatre blessées; à Sarnich, sept tuées et une blessée; à Kéréméttik, quinze tuées et quatre blessées. Des villages de Sariar et Yurudjek, environ 350 âmes, deux seuls ont pu s'échapper. On ignore encore le sort du restant. Qui sait que d'autres crimes on aura à relater. Sakli, de la commune de Charkeuy, qui possédait 200 bœufs et 3,000 chèvres et moutons, a été pillé. On leur a enlevé jusqu'aux effets des femmes. Les autorités Russes, émues par ces faits, ont envoyé à la rencontre de ces bandits deux escadrons de cavalerie appuyés par l'infanterie. Aujourd'hui elles ont expédié de nouvelles troupes. Elles auraient pu prévenir tous ces malheurs en désarmant lors de leur arrivée les Chrétiens comme elles l'ont fait pour les Musulmans. Le Gouvernement Provisoire, présidé par M. Critiens, est cause de tous ces crimes. Il s'en est rendu responsable par sa manière d'agir depuis sa nomination, ayant toujours laissé le crime impuni quand il s'agissait de Chrétiens, soit par sympathie pour ses coreligionnaires, soit pour d'autres causes. Il a encouragé en quelque sorte ces actes de brigandage. Malheureusement il est probable que nous aurons, dans la suite, quand les Russes quitteront le pays, d'autres malheurs à déplorer. Il est à prévoir, si les autorités Turques de prendront de

sécieuses mesures, que les Turcs, excités comme je les vois, ne prennent une terrible vengeance de tout ce qu'on leur a fait souffrir. Depuis ce matin on a commencé à travailler aux tranchées pour mettre notre ville en état de défense. Ces ouvrages sont fait à l'est de la ville, à un kilomètre de distance sur la pointe la plus élevée dominant la mer. Des sondages ont été faits sur notre rade, et le bruit court qu'on doit placer des torpilles. Rien pourtant n'a encore été fait.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 312.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 729.) *Therapia, June 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of the Hatt, or Imperial Decree, naming Safvet Pasha Grand Vizier. It is conceived in a liberal spirit, and declares the Sultan's intention of maintaining the Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 312.

Newspaper Extract.

VOICI la traduction du Hatt nommant Safvet Pacha à cette dignité, qui a été apporté à la Sublime Porte par Ali Fuad Bey, Premier Secrétaire du Sultan, et lu solennellement par Saïd Effendi, Directeur du Bureau des Référendaires :—

"Mon illustre Vézir Safvet Pacha,

"La destitution de Ruchdi Pacha du poste de Grand Vézir étant devenue nécessaire, j'ai jugé convenable de vous confier ce poste tout en y ajoutant le portefeuille de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et de nommer, vu son ancienneté et ses connaissances, Moustapha Pacha, Président de notre Conseil du Dari-Chourа, au poste de Ministre de la Guerre.

"Le maintien et la conservation de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique dans l'Empire, en cette difficile situation; l'adoption et la mise à exécution de toutes les mesures nécessaires, de nature à assurer le répos et la sécurité de tous nos sujets et de nos populations, et à réaliser la prospérité et la richesse dont le pays, de l'aveu général, est susceptible; la préservation de notre Constitution et l'exécution des prescriptions constitutionnelles; la réforme et l'amélioration, dans un bref délai, des Tribunaux Nizamié, de manière à inspirer à tous la confiance; la plus grande attention pour la distribution de la justice à tous nos sujets sans exception; la consolidation et le raffermissement des relations sincères et des bons rapports existants entre les Puissances amies et notre Sublime Porte; tels étant nos vœux et nos désirs impériaux, vous commencerez à travailler, d'un commun accord avec nos autres Ministres, à leur réalisation.

"Que Dieu accorde le succès à tous."

Le Grand-Vézir Safvet Pacha, après la lecture du Hatt Impérial, a reçu à la Sublime Porte les félicitations des Ministres et des hauts fonctionnaires, et s'est rendu ensuite au Palais de Yildiz pour présenter ses hommages à Sa Majesté le Sultan.

No. 313.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 80. Political.) *Trebizond, June 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

A GREAT scarcity of grain prevails in the district of Gumushané since a few months, in consequence of the southern districts, from which it was usually provided,

having been prohibited to export their produces, which were required for the use of the army.

About three months back, after the Government stores at Gumushané had been emptied, the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants of that town, who had petitioned uselessly the Mutessarif, Kavzoglu Ali Pasha, to provide for their wants, repaired in a body to his private house and threatened him. He left in the night for Trebizond. As an Acting Mutessarif has been sent to Gumushané, and as there had been also other motives of complaint against him, he was not expected to return to his post; but he was allowed to do so three weeks ago, through the influence, it is said, of his wife, who belonged formerly to the Imperial Palace.

In the meantime some measures were taken by the Government of Trebizond, and a subscription was opened in this town, especially among the Greeks, to whose community belong most of the sufferers.

Grain was sent in the suffering district, but not in quantities sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants, who are compelled since some time to come and procure it themselves at Trebizond. Trains of women, young girls, and boys, but rarely of grown-up men, are seen daily heavily-loaded with grain, which they have to carry on their backs sometimes for sixty or seventy miles' distance, they being unprovided with pack animals.

To add to the hardships of these poor people, cases of robbery, and even, it is said, of violence to women, have lately occurred on the road.

The Pasha has reinforced the police on the road in the measure of his means, and is making active researches to discover the perpetrators of the robberies, five of whom are already in prison.

Under these circumstances, I suggested to the Pasha, who readily accepted the proposal, to send in the suffering district a certain quantity of grain, which, being sold on the spot, would save the populations from the serious inconvenience and risks to which they are now exposed.

But the Medjlis said, not without some reason, that these populations would always be compelled to come in the town to sell other produces, or household furniture, such as carpets, copper vessels, &c., in order to procure the necessary money for purchasing the grain; and the proposed measure, which might have benefited some of the sufferers, was not adopted.

Should there be available relief funds, the case of the inhabitants of the Gumushané district is worthy of consideration.

The condition of its population is becoming worse every day, in consequence of their resources being gradually exhausted and the new crops not being gathered before the end of July; but even then their position will be only temporarily ameliorated.

That district, which never produces enough for its consumption, will yield this year less than usual, owing to all the available lands not having been brought under cultivation for want of seed.

Had it not been for the quantities of grain which have been imported from Russia since the blockade was raised, the district of Gumushané would in all probability have suffered from famine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 314.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 731.) *Therapia, June 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of petitions from the Greek inhabitants of Geni, Kirk-Kilisse, and Scopos, and Xanthi, protesting against their countries being included in the New Bulgaria, as well as a statistical table of the different populations of the district of Kirk-Kilisse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 314.

Petitions from Geni and Kirk-Kilisse.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

Excellence,

C'EST avec une profonde douleur que nous avons appris, par la publication officielle du Traité de San Stéfano, l'annexion à la nouvelle Bulgarie de notre bourg, dont la population est entièrement de race Hellénique. Songeant avec désespoir à notre avenir, qui ne sera pas d'une condition meilleure que celle de notre état actuel, nous protestons énergiquement, comme nous l'avons fait lors de la réunion de la Conférence de Constantinople, contre une pareille annexion de notre patrie au nouvel Etat Bulgare, Etat qui vaudra tout autant que le peuple Bulgare.

Il n'est pas de notre ressort d'examiner si la Constitution d'une pareille Bulgarie serait compatible avec la tranquillité générale de l'Europe. Il n'est pas de notre compétence de justifier que la Bulgarie du Traité de San Stefano, dominant sur les principaux ports de la Mer d'Egée et de la Mer Noire, serait une menace contre le commerce Européen, et pour Constantinople un épouventail perpétuel. Ces questions, ayant un carnetère général, appartiennent à l'examen particulier de l'Europe et de la diplomatie.

Nous, Excellence, qui sommes un peuple habitant la Thrace depuis les temps les plus reculés, et qui avons beaucoup plus de droits sur cette province que ces nouveaux venus du fond de la Tartarie, nous devons constater que nos incontestables droits nationaux seraient anéantis par le Traité de San Stéfano, si l'Europe ne s'efforçait pas d'en empêcher l'exécution. Pourquoi, Excellence, dissimuler notre profonde douleur causée par l'annexion de notre patrie, un pays Hellénique, à la Principauté Bulgare? Est-ce que le système de fusion des diverses races, ayant différentes traditions et des tendences différentes, serait aujourd'hui en vigueur en Europe? Par égard pour l'Europe elle-même nous déclarons que ce système est pour nous absolument inacceptable. Nous sommes à même de comprendre que l'Europe le repoussera et qu'elle ne supportera pas que la seule race en Orient qui a le plus de titres à la civilisation et à une existence indépendante soit écrasée sous le poids de la domination Bulgare et condamnée infailliblement à perdre sa nationalité.

Puisqu'il s'agit de l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens en général, et non de celui des Bulgares en particulier, dans quel but, nous le demandons, l'Hellénisme serait de nouveau assujeti à l'oppression et à la brutalité Bulgare, bien moins supportables que la domination Turque, qui, du moins, respectait nos privilèges nationaux? Les souffrances que nous font endurer les Bulgares, depuis l'arrivée des Russes, sont la preuve de ce que nous avançons; la tyrannie et la violence avec lesquelles ils nous traitent feraient envie aux janissaires mêmes.

Nous ne croyons pas qu'il soit nécessaire de mentionner à votre Excellence que, toute la bande de terre qui, en deçà d'Andrinople, forme la frontière sud-est de la Bulgarie, est habitée par une population Grecque compacte et civilisée; d'autant plus que plusieurs statistiques ont été publiées sur ce sujet par des Européens compétents et par les autorités Ottomanes.

La population Grecque, Excellence, a l'inébranlable conviction que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne permettra jamais, et en plein dix-neuvième siècle, la prescription des droits de la race la plus ancienne de ce pays, race qui, par son énergie naturelle, par sa capacité et son amour pour l'instruction, deviendra un jour la civilisatrice de l'Orient. Cette race ne demande autre chose qu'une liberté sociale et civile pour n'être pas absorbée par le Slavisme et pour mieux répondre à sa mission et aux intérêts de l'Europe.

En présentant cette adresse à votre Excellence nous la prions de la communiquer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, dont nous implorons la bienveillante attention en notre faveur, et nous lui imprimons d'avance notre reconnaissance.

De votre Excellence, &c.

Géni, Bourg de l'Eparchie de Bourinar-Hissar, le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Avril*, 1878.

Les Notables,

(Suivent 10 signatures.)

Le cachet de la Société de Géni ayant été perdu pendant le pillage et l'embrasement de cette localité par les Bachi-Bazouks, le Syllogue de Kirk-Kilissé confirme l'authenticité des signatures ci-dessus.

Kirk-Kilisse, le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Avril*, 1878.

Le Président,
(Signé) CONST. HATZOPOULO.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
ANTHIME PELTEKI DIACRE.

Une Protéstation analogue de Kirk-Kilisse, datée de $\frac{2}{14}$ *Avril* 1878, *porte les signatures suivantes.*

Les Notables de Kirk-Kilisse,
(Suivent 33 signatures.)

Le Syllogue de Kirk-Kilissé confirme l'authenticité des signatures ci-dessus.

Kirk-Kilisse, le $\frac{2}{14}$ *Avril*, 1878.

Le Président,
(Signé) CONST. HADJOPOULO.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
ANTHIME PELTEKIS DIACRE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 314.

Petition from Scopos.

Scopos, le 7 *Mai*, 1878.

Excellence,

C'EST avec la douleur la plus profonde que nous avons appris, par la publication officielle du Traité de San Stefano, l'annexion, à la nouvelle Principauté de la Bulgarie, de notre ville, dont la population appartient à la nation Hellène. Inquiets sur notre avenir et forts de nos droits nous protestons énergiquement contre cette annexion ratifiée seulement par les deux Puissances belligérantes signataires du susdit Traité.

La Turquie s'étant d'abord refusée d'adhérer aux décisions de la Conférence, a été contrainte, après une lutte sanglante, d'accepter, entre autres conditions, la constitution d'une grande Bulgarie s'étendant au-delà des Balkans jusqu'à la Mer d'Egée et la Mer Noire et comprenant la plus grande partie de la Thrace et de la Macédoine. La Russie, d'un autre côté, Puissance mandataire de l'Europe à la guerre actuelle, ayant déjà fait dix fois la guerre contre la Turquie pour l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens en général et non au profit du Panslavisme, qui souvent et officiellement avait été repoussé et désapprouvé par tous les prédécesseurs de l'Empereur Alexandre, et qui a été rejété avec aversion par l'Eglise elle-même, la Russie, disons-nous, a déployé aujourd'hui sans pudeur d'étendard de ce même Panslavisme et elle cherche, par la création d'une grande Bulgarie, à causer des disputes perpétuelles et des luttes sanglantes entre les Grecs et les Bulgares.

Pour nous, Excellence, qui sommes un peuple habitant la Thrace depuis les temps les plus reculés; qui avons beaucoup plus de droits sur cette province que ces nouveaux venus du fond de la Tatarie; et qui sommes en même de comprendre que nos incontestables droits nationaux seraient anéantis par le Traité de San Stefano; pour nous, disons-nous, il serait mieux de rester sous la domination Turque, parce que entre deux maux le moindre est préférable. La Turquie du moins avait respecté nos privilèges nationaux.

Mais puisque tous les délégués des Puissances à la Conférence, sans en excepter celui de la Russie, ont décidé, d'un commun accord, la constitution de deux Principautés, l'une au-delà et l'autre en deçà des Balkans, puisque l'Europe ainsi par cette décision solennelle a préalablement accordé le droit à la Thrace et à la Macédoine d'exister politiquement par elles-mêmes en qualité d'Etats tributaires, ne serait-il légitime et juste de réclamer non pas de faire partie à la Principauté Bulgare, non plus de rester de nouveau sous la domination des Turcs, mais bien de nous constituer, nous habitants de la Thrace avec nos frères de Macédoine, à une Principauté en deçà des Balkans? Cela serait certainement juste et compatible en même temps avec nos intérêts et avec ceux de l'Europe sous plusieurs rapports.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence de faire parvenir cette adresse au respectable Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique et de l'informer en même temps que nous

avons l'inébranlable conviction qu'il ne permettra jamais l'anéantissement de nos droits nationaux menacés par les menées et les pièces que le Slavisme nous dresse et qu'il aura la bienveillance, nous en sommes sûrs, de nous accorder sa haute protection.

En exprimant d'avance notre reconnaissance, nous avons, &c.,

Les notables de la ville,

(Suivent 34 signatures).

Inclosure 3 in No. 314.

Tableau Statistique.—District de Kirk-Kilissé.

(Traduction.)

	Population Grecque.	Population Bulgare.	Population Turque.
1. Karahamdja	..	200	250
2. Scopelos	1,800	..	..
3. Pétra	2,500	..	..
4. Ereelér	10	200	800
5. Kupirlick	..	150	400
6. Elmatzik	2	150	400
7. Cadikiöi	..	..	150
8. Kocacois	..	120	..
9. Ahmatsa	..	..	200
10. Hernelitsa	..	200	..
11. 20 églises (Kirk-Kilissé)	9,500	4,500	3,500
12. Kouyun Guiavour	100	100	150
13. Yénidjé	10	1,500	..
14. Cavacli	40	1,300	..
15. Kara-Hirdir	5	150	150
16. Assil-Vegli	3	..	300
17. Louferji	..	40	200
18. Nedjac	..	..	150
19. Ouskiup Deré	..	..	150
20. Demirji-Iali	..	30	250
21. Yandala	..	..	20
22. Ecsaion	800	..	250
23. Samra	20	10	..
24. Courou-Deré	600	150	160
25. Scopos	5,000	120	..
26. Hadji-Fueli	..	140	300
27. Vayia (Aveni)	..	..	60
28. Fedji Kioi	20	..	..
29. Skopastos	2,500	..	..
30. Hounveli	250	150	..
31. Boujar Hissar	1,000	1,200	1,000
32. Géul	2,000	400	100
33. Yandjielar	1,000	..	..
34. Kelyva	140	250	..
35. Yiuan Kiol	..	..	300
36. Osmanlik	..	..	100
37. Yeni-Kioi	1,000	..	..
38. Aivali	600	..	..
39. Koumbarba	600	..	..
40. Karaimali	..	350	..
41. Alepli	2,000	..	..
42. Loulé-Bourgas	3,000	..	1,200
43. Kara-Agats	..	..	400
44. Trap Bey	..	..	400
45. Ahmed Bey	1,500	..	..
46. Omarisa	..	..	60
47. Tsilli-Kioi	900	..	..
48. Mussini	600	..	..
49. Satikioi	..	900	..
50. Ismilli	..	..	120
51. Karistirani	..	..	480
52. Macristissa	1,500	..	..
53. Biza	2,000	..	900
54. Az Hougsa	700	..	..
55. Yiovoli	900	..	..
56. Sarai	1,200	..	600
57. Adrikioi	..	..	240
58. Kavaljik	250	..	..

	Population Grecque.	Population Bulgare.	Population Turque.
59. Tsukelli	900	..	300
60. Saint George	1,900	..	..
61. Tas Tatarli	120	..	..
62. Terimpes Kioi	..	..	200
63. Bazarli	..	..	200
64. Oya-Tatarli	..	..	240
65. Kryoneron	1,500	..	..
66. Pinien	80	300	..
67. Tsongara	300	800	..
68. Tsouni-Kioi	400	..	..
69. Solides	2,500	..	..
70. Saint Jean	400	..	..
71. Yintrino	200	..	..
72. Orgas	600	..	..
73. Saradina	2,500	..	500
74. Saumkovion	6,000	..	..
75. Tralia	1,200	..	..
76. Corficolyva	30	..	550
77. Cosli et ses alentours	2,500	..	..
Total	65,870	13,415	16,250

Nota.—Ce qu'il est évidemment prouvé par le tableau statistique ci-dessus, c'est que les limites de la Bulgarie ont été tracées à dessein et dans le but de porter préjudice à l'Hellénisme. Toute la population Grecque d'en deçà des Balkans est mutilée. Cette population, jointe aux habitants Turcs, est de beaucoup supérieure en nombre à celle des Bulgares. La nouvelle Bulgarie nous entève encore cette bande de terre à partir du village de Scopelo jusqu'à Tsorloussonyon, dont la population est purement de race Grecque. Il n'y a qu'un petit nombre d'habitations Bulgares clair-semées dans les campagnes. La plupart de ces Bulgares sont Grécophiles. Un petit nombre d'entre eux, environ le cinquième de leur population totale, s'est déjà retiré dans la Bulgarie proprement dite, où il a occupé de fertiles propriétés Turques.

Kirk-Kilissé, le 1ᵉʳ Avril, 1878.

Inclosure 4 in No. 314.

Protest from Xanthé.

DES bruits alarmants concernant le sort de notre cher pays, la Macédoine, circulent ici depuis quelques temps, et prennent de jour en jour consistance; à croire ces bruits, notre bien-aimée patrie, la Macédoine, serait comprise en tout, ou en partie, à notre insu et malgré nos protestations formelles, et notamment celle du 20 Octobre, 1876, adressée par l'entremise de notre autorité supérieure du Patriarcat Œcuménique de Constantinople à qui de droit, dans la Principauté de la Bulgarie à créer, à la suite de la guerre Russo-Turque.

Notre situation est devenue insupportable et désespérée, parce que une pareille délimitation de la Bulgarie, non-justifiée vis-à-vis des Bulgares qui n'ont pas conquis notre pays de droit de guerre, ne pourrait se faire, croyons-nous, de notre vivant et contre notre volonté, au mépris des principes du droit international les plus élémentaires, défendant de disposer d'êtres logiques sans leur assentiment et sans aucune considération pour la religion, pour les us, pour la langue, pour les sentiments, pour les espérances, pour les traditions, et pour l'histoire ancienne et moderne des dits êtres et de notre patrie. D'ailleurs, faire des Bulgares d'au-delà des Balkans, qui vivent chez nous comme des étrangers, ayant fait des incursions à notre pays à diverses époques et circonstances, nos maîtres et les conquérants de la Macédoine, ce serait un acte tellement odieux et haïssable qu'il nous répugne même d'y penser.

S'il dépendait de nous de nous prononcer sur notre sort et sur celui de la Macédoine, il ne viendrait jamais assurément à l'esprit de personne de demander son annexion à la nouvelle Principauté de la Bulgarie, car il y a, ainsi qu'il est dit ci-dessus, des liens sacrés qu'on n'oublie jamais; nous avons des liens de langue, de nationalité, de religion, d'histoire, des souvenirs, et des espérances; liens qui nous unissent intimément avec nos co-nationaux, et non avec les Bulgares d'au delà des Balkans, qui ont fait des incursions à notre pays. Mais pour le moment et dans le cas actuel, à l'entente même du dit bruit, nous venons par la présente protester solennellement de toutes nos forces contre la soumission de notre patrie, la Macédoine, ou de notre province—pays entièrement Hellénique au point de vue historique et sous tout autre point de vue—à la nouvelle Principauté de la Bulgarie, et demander qu'il soit accordé à notre chère patrie, la Macédoine, un système administratif et poli-

tique conforme à notre volonté, adapté à nos traditions et à nos coutumes, séparé et indépendant entièrement de la nouvelle Principauté de la Bulgarie, et assurant notre avenir.

Forts de notre droit et de notre conviction bien arrêtée de ne tolérer ni pour un moment la soumission de notre pays aux Bulgares, pleins de confiance surtout en la justice des Puissances Européennes, et prenant le bon Dieu à témoin de cette resolution, nous Soussignés, habitants de la province de Xanthie, réitérons de nouveau nos protestations formelles et solennelles contre les dits bruits, et prions les Puissances Européennes, soucieuses de la cessation d'effusion de sang en Orient et de la conservation de notre vie et de notre honneur en Macédoine, de ne pas admettre une pareille délimitation de la Bulgarie; ce n'est que de cette manière qu'elles pourraient éloigner de notre pays l'effusion de sang et notre ruine certaine, imminentes sans faute en cas d'annexion de la Macédoine à la nouvelle Principauté de la Bulgarie.

Xanthie, le $\frac{1-5}{17}$ *Février*, 1878.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Une protestation analogue a été remise de la part des habitants de la province de Polyanie, datée de 27 Février, 1878, et portant les signatures et les cachets suivants :—

Paroisses de Doïran, capitale de la Province de Polyanie,

(L.S.) PAPPA CORTA.
(L.S.) KILINDIR.
(L.S.) CHRISTO BAIMADJI.
(L.S.) TZERNIDJEN.
(L.S.) FOURKA.

(Suivent les signatures des Primats, Prêtres, et Notables.)

No. 315.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 732. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, June 6, 1878.

My Lord,

SADYK PASHA, when Prime Minister, informed me that the Porte had obtained evidence that Russian Agents were connected with Ali Suavi's attempt to restore the ex-Sultan to the throne and with the conspiracy which led to the occurrences at the Palace of Cheragan. I requested M. Mariniteh to ascertain from other sources whether there was any ground for his Highness' statement. He has sent me a Memorandum of a conversation on the subject with Mahmoud Damat Pasha, who informed him that there was no doubt that Russian Agents were concerned in Ali Suavi's plot; that amongst the papers of this individual, and of others who had been arrested as his accomplices, a number of cards of Russian officers have been found; and that Ali Suavi himself received 5,000 francs a month from Russian sources. The object of the conspiracy, Mahmoud Damat Pasha said, was to take possession of the person of Murad, and to place him upon the throne, with the intention of subsequently deposing him and of proclaiming as Sultan the youngest of his brothers.

I place these statements before your Lordship for what they may be worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 316.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 733.)

Therapia, June 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a despatch, under flying seal, from Vice-Consul Biliotti,[a] inclosing two papers given to him by a Georgian Prince, George Tzeretely. I have directed Mr. Biliotti not to run the risk of compromising the safety of this gentleman by encouraging him to remain at Trebizond, or by

[a] No. 303.

holding out hopes to him that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to entertain the proposal that he has submitted to your Lordship. However, the statements that he makes with regard to the feelings of the Christians and Mussulmans of the Caucasian Provinces against Russia are not unworthy of your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 317.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 734.)

Therapia, June 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli respecting the excesses committed by the Christians on the Mussulmans in the neighbourhood of Kerlan, also the translation of a telegram from the Turkish inhabitants of Dimotica complaining of their treatment by the Russians; and further the translation of a petition from the district of Kerleve, praying for protection from the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 317.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 1 *Juin*, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI le regret de vous informer que plusieurs personnes, arrivées des villages du district de Kessan, rapportent qu'une bande d'environ 300 hommes, composée de Bulgares et Grecs Rayas, commet toutes sortes d'excès dans les villages Musulmans des districts de Kessan et Malgara. S'il faut en croire ces personnes il y aurait eu ces derniers jours des Turcs tués. Tout cela se passe au vu et su des autorités militaires Russes.

J'ai l'honneur de vous remettre, sous pli, la copie d'une pétition qui a été adressée à M. le Capitaine Salmon, du vaisseau Anglais "Swiftsure," par plusieurs réfugiés Musulmans à Cavalla.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 317.

Petition addressed to Admiral Commerell.

Cavalla, le $\frac{1-13}{25}$ *Mai*, 1878.

Excellence,

TOUT le monde connaît que l'armée Russe a depuis quelques mois envahi et occupé nos pays et que nous avons dû abandonner nos foyers, nos biens et nos meubles, pour venir ici dans un état déplorable et privés de tout. Notre Gouvernement, prenant d'abord en considération notre état misérable, avait ordonné à l'autorité locale de faire distribuer journellement une ration de demi-occque de pain par tête. Mais ces rations ont été de jour en jour réduites, et finalement, on nous a fait prévenir que par suite de la manque de blé et de farine, la distribution de nos modiques rations allait cesser totalement.

En profitant de l'occasion que nous présente l'heureuse arrivée de votre Excellence à Cavalla, et en nous basant sur les généreux sentiments philanthropiques de la noble nation Anglaise, nous nous adressons humblement à votre Excellence et, invoquant sa charité bien connue, nous la supplions de vouloir bien prêter aide et assistance pour la continuation de nos rations et obliger, une fois de plus, les émigrés Musulmans à une reconnaissance infinie et profonde envers elle.

(Suivent douze signatures d'émigrés Musulmans.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 317.

Telegram from the Inhabitants of Dimotica to Mr. Layard.

(Traduction.)

A l'Ambassade Britannique.

D'APRES les informations que nous recevons, un millier de Russes qui étaient campés depuis quelques jours dans le village d'Orta, dépendance de notre district, hier Mercredi, s'unissant à d'autres soldats Russes habillés en blanc et aux Chrétiens du susdit village, se mirent à attaquer les villages Musulmans. Ils ont tiré une cinquantaine de coups de canons et ils continuent à tirer aujourd'hui encore, à tuer du monde, et à piller les propriétés des Musulmans. Ceux-ci, afin de sauver leur vie et leur honneur, s'enfuient avec leurs femmes et leurs enfants vers les montagnes et y restent sans nourriture et sans ressource.

Par conséquent nous venons conjurer et supplier son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de nous délivrer des mains de ces sauvages.

Le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Mai*, 1878.

(Signé) MOHAMET.
ISMAIL.
MOHAMET.

(Fondés de pouvoir des habitants de Dimotica.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 317.

Substance of Petition from the Moukhtars of Kerlevé.

Le 17 *Djimazi-el-evvel*, 1295.

(Traduction ou résumé.)

ILS exposent qu'il y a eu plusieurs cas de meurtre par les Bulgares en différentes localités dans leurs districts au point que les Musulmans craignent d'aller à leurs champs. Ils prient par conséquent le personnage qui n'est pas indiqué dans la pièce d'accorder sa protection aux habitants Musulmans.

No. 318.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 736.)

Therapia, June 6, 1878.

My Lord,

THE petition, accompanied by a French translation, which I have the honour to inclose, was presented to me to-day by two Mussulmans from Batoum. It is signed by all the notables of the place, and protests against the annexation of their country to Russia. Nearly similar petitions are to be presented to the French and Austrian Embassies, and the Italian Legation, the paragraph relating to the desire of the inhabitants that England should purchase Batoum being omitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 318.

The Inhabitants of the Province of Batoum to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, le 1 *Juin*, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LA Russie ayant en vue la conquête de l'Europe et l'empire du monde entier, convoite depuis de longues années les contrées de l'Empire Ottoman, et chaque fois qu'elle croit l'occasion favorable à l'exécution de ses projets, elle trouve un prétexte quelconque pour lui déclarer une guerre inique et barbare.

C'est encore dans le même but qu'elle a pris dernièrement les armes contre la Turquie sous prétexte de délivrer les Bulgares de l'oppression et de la tyrannie. Dans cette guerre, la victoire a penché du côté de la Russie, non que l'armée Ottomane n'ait pas rempli bravement son devoir, mais à cause de certaines fautes commises dans le haut commandement et parce qu'enfin c'est Dieu qui l'a voulu.

Cette Puissance, abusant de sa victoire, a contraint l'Empire Ottoman à accepter toutes les conditions qu'il lui a semblé bon de lui imposer, et c'est avec un grand étonnement et regret que nous avons appris que, parmi les Conditions Préliminaires de Paix, il y en avait une, d'après laquelle la province de Batoum, notre patrie, devait être cédée à la Russie, à titre d'indemnité de guerre. Persuadés d'avance qu'il nous serait impossible de vivre sous le joug tyrannique d'un Gouvernement aussi despotique que le Gouvernement Moscovite, nous venons prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni, dont les sentiments de justice ne sont que trop connus, notre situation, et soumettre à son appréciation les réflexions suivantes :—

La Russie a déclaré plusieurs fois qu'elle n'entreprenait cette guerre que pour protéger les Bulgares et non dans un but de conquête et d'annexions. Or, dans la province de Batoum il n'y a ni Bulgares ni Slavs, races dont la Russie veut améliorer le sort. Il est vrai que dans le district de Livana se trouvent environ 400 familles Chrétiennes, mais elles appartiennent à la nation Arménienne, et n'ont rien de commun avec la race Slave, de plus il est évident que l'harmonie la plus parfaite règne entre ces Chrétiens et leurs compatriotes Musulmans. Nonobstant ce fait, et malgré les défaites que l'armée Russe a subies dans la province de Batoum, où elle n'a aucun fait d'armes dont elle puisse se glorifier, la Russie veut s'annexer cette province, et pour atteindre ce but, elle a imposé à l'Empire Ottoman une indemnité de guerre inouïe.

L'annexion de notre province à la Russie serait pour nous un véritable malheur.

Le Gouvernement Russe ne ressemble nullement aux Gouvernements Européens. Il fait une guerre acharnée contre la liberté de conscience, et il n'y a pas de moyens licites ou illicites qu'il ne mette en mouvement pour Russifier toutes les races Chrétiennes et Musulmanes qu'il a subjuguées. Nous en avons la preuve surtout dans ce qui se passe dans les provinces voisines d'Akhaskha et de Soukhoum-Kalé, où elle a exercé l'oppression la plus odieuse et employé toutes les manœuvres possibles pour obliger la plus grande partie de la population à renier sa religion et à se fondre au Russisme. Ceux qui persistent dans leurs croyances, et veulent rester fidèles à leur nationalité, sont persécutés, exilés, et même mis à mort. Le Gouvernement Russe, au lieu de protéger, comme il est de son devoir, l'honneur de ses sujets Musulmans ou Chrétiens non-Russe, le foule aux pieds. En Roumélie surtout, il n'y a pas de calamités que les Russes n'aient infligées aux Musulmans. Ils ont déshonorés leurs femmes, massacré un grand nombre d'innocents, et envoyé beaucoup d'autres en exil en Russie. Pour nous décider, après cela, à accepter le joug d'un Gouvernement aussi tyrannique, il nous faudrait être autre chose que des hommes.

Mais il existe une autre raison particulière à nous, qui nous oblige à rejeter de toutes nos forces la sujétion Russe. Notre province se trouvant sur les frontières Turco-Russes, nous avons naturellement pris part à toutes les guerres que l'Empire Ottoman a eu à soutenir contre la Russie pendant ces dernières siècles. Tous les habitants de la province, sans exception, ont toujours combattu à côté des armées Ottomanes pour l'honneur et les droits de leur patrie, et c'est grâce à leur bravoure que les Russes n'ont jamais pu, jusqu'à présent, mettre les pieds dans la province de Batoum. Il est donc évident que le Gouvernement et le peuple Russes doivent garder une haine particulière contre nous, et qu'ils chercheront à se venger par toute espèce de persécutions, et cela jusqu'à l'extermination complète de notre race. Nous ne pouvons pas nous décider à émigrer pour éviter ces persécutions, attendu que les souffrances qu'endurent en ce moment les émigrés de Roumélie nous font prévoir notre sort en cas d'émigration. Nous savons aussi qu'il nous serait impossible d'opposer avec quelque espoir de succès une résistance armée contre la Russie, sans une assistance du dehors. Mais comme dans l'un et l'autre cas notre sort serait le même, au lieu d'aller mourir inutilement loin de notre pays, nous préférons y trouver une mort glorieuse en combattant contre la tyrannie. Ce serait une dernière consolation pour nous, d'arroser de notre sang le sol de notre pays, et d'avoir ce même sol pour tombeau. Enfin notre mort serait une tache éternelle à la réputation de ce siècle de civilisation dont on fait tant d'éloge.

Ne pouvant pas nous livrer à la merci d'un Gouvernement aussi tyrannique, nous nous trouvons dans la nécessité de nous opposer aux dispositions prises par le Gouvernement Ottoman à ce sujet, et nous déclarons que nous sommes tous prêts à défendre notre pays contre l'invasion de l'ennemi. Nous combattrons ayant nos familles dans les premiers rangs, et après avoir vu le sol rougi par le sang de nos femmes et de nos enfants, nous poursuivrons notre résistance désespérée jusqu'au dernier. Nous avons des preuves pour croire que tous les peuples de l'Asie Mineure viendront à notre aide dans cette lutte suprême.

Le but de la présente n'est pas de faire apprendre à votre Excellence l'importance

du port de Batoum, ni combien l'acquisition de ce port aiderait la Russie dans l'exécution de ses projets ultérieurs; nous voulons seulement porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence qu'il nous est impossible, pour les raisons qui précèdent, d'accepter la sujétion Russe tant que nous respirons.

Si jamais la Sublime Porte était obligé d'abandonner Batoum à titre d'indemnité de guerre, nous désirons de tout notre cœur que notre pays passe par achat, ou par toute autre manière, entre les mains du Gouvernement Anglais, auquel nous avons pleine et entière confiance, étant certains que sous la protection de la Grande Bretagne nous jouirons d'une liberté complète, tant au point de vue politique que religieuse, et que notre honneur sera toujours à l'abri de toute attaque.

Après une guerre aussi désastreuse et contraire aux principes de la civilisation de notre siècle, provoquée par un Gouvernement despotique dans un but de conquête, nous aimons à espérer que le Gouvernement Anglais, qui est le protecteur de la paix et de la civilisation du monde, ne consentira jamais à ce que les scènes sanglantes dont nous venons d'être les spectateurs, se reproduisent dans la province du Lazistan (Batoum), habitée par 200,000 âmes, scènes auxquelles pourraient prendre part aussi les habitants du Vilayet de Trébizonde et de toute l'Asie Mineure. Notre plus grand désir est de vivre sous la protection de l'Empire Ottoman; si cela est impossible, nous croyons que notre avenir ne serait assuré que si toutefois notre province venait à passer sous la domination Anglaise.

En nous basant sur les preuves d'amitié que l'Angleterre n'a jamais cessé de montrer envers les Ottomans, nous sommes convaincus que le Gouvernement, ainsi que le noble peuple Anglais, accepteront la prière que nous leur adressons au nom de l'humanité et de la civilisation, et nous prêteront leur assistance dans la crise que nous traversons.

Vu les circonstances pressantes, nous prions votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter, le plus tôt possible, cette prière à la connaissance du Gouvernement Anglais, en lui transmettant en même temps la présente requête.

Nous avons, &c.

(Signé) Les Habitants de la Province de Batoum.

No. 319.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 739.) *Therapia, June 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Blunt, respecting the question of the return of the refugees from Greece and Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 319.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Separate.) *Larissa, May 30, 1878.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the assertion of the Greek authorities of Lamia relative to the result of my communications with the leading refugees during my late visit there, I am enabled to furnish your Excellency with a translation of a Greek letter, dated Sourbi, $\frac{18}{27}$th instant, which Redjeb Pasha received yesterday from one of these latter-mentioned refugees, in which allusion is made to my interview with them on that occasion. It confirms my statement that the refugees promised me to return home.

I am satisfied of the authenticity of the letter because the writer repeats what he then told me as regards Redjeb Pasha.

I trust your Excellency will kindly pardon me for again troubling you on the subject, but I am anxious to satisfy your Excellency and Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that I correctly reported to your Excellency and to Mr. Wyndham the intentions expressed to me by the refugees with whom I conversed at Lamia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 319.

M. Iconomides to Rejeb Pasha.

(Translation.)

Highness Pasha, *Sourbi, May* $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

I KISS the hem of your garment and declare to you as follows: Some twenty days ago M. Dimhaki wrote to me about the amnesty proclaimed by the Government. I immediately replied as follows: Redjeb should come and treat with me, as we place no confidence in any other Turk or Greek, for we have observed that this Turk makes no distinction between creeds and races.

As you have not come we have had to confer with the English Consul, Blunt, to whom we declared that when all the Turks will become like Rejeb then we all, Turks and Christians, will live together in such good neighbourhood, that at last Europe will have (no?) need of us nor we of Europe. We spoke, therefore, with him (Mr. Blunt) on matters regarding the welfare of the country, and we promised that we would all go out (leave Greece.)

As I am the representative of all the districts I also spoke with him on various other subjects, and by my advice the families of Domoco and the Campo began to leave. I went to Gardiki and had prepared 400 families to leave at once, to be followed by others.

Suddenly a relative of Nateka presented himself to us, saying, "Unless you give 300 liras you will suffer from the Bimbashi." This alarmed the people, but I considered it well to send yesterday a letter to the Bimbashi, who has answered that Nateka's statement is false, and really I am convinced that it is a cooked story of Nateka's, for this man is ready to burn a village for 5 liras.

I am now actively engaged in gathering the people together, and in eight days 400 families will leave, and after eight more days all the rest will leave. We all will be very pleased to see you, to say nothing of myself, who have a regard for you and wish to see you; many others also love and want to see you, and it will be well, I think, if after ten days you go to Armyro.

(Signed) ICONOMIDES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 319.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, May 30, 1878.*

I INCLOSE a copy *en clair* of my telegram of the 28th instant, to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, as well as a copy of the one I addressed to your Excellency on the 29th idem. Your Excellency will observe that, notwithstanding the assertion made by the Greek authorities of Lamia that I had misunderstood the intentions expressed by the refugees as to their return, no less than 230 families have come back to their homes in districts of Armyro, Domoco, and Carditza, since my visit to that place.

As both the military and civil authorities in Thessaly have heard from more than one reliable source that refugee families who are anxious to return meet with difficulties in doing so, on the part of some of the Greek subordinate officials on the frontier, the Mutessarif, Said Pasha, has addressed a letter to M. Palamidis, the Greek Consul at Larissa, of which I inclose a copy, requesting him to recommend the earnest attention of the Greek frontier authorities to concerting the best measures towards effecting the repatriation of these unfortunate refugees. I also inclose copy of another letter which Said Pasha has addressed to M. Palamidis, expressing his hope that the Greek authorities will adopt, in concert with the Ottoman authorities, the necessary steps for the restitution of the cattle and flocks which have been carried off during late events. As the larger portion of this property belongs to the Christian peasantry of Thessaly, and its detention increases their difficulties, it is to be hoped that the Greek Government will give the prompt attention to the matter. I should mention, in justice to the Ottoman authorities, that they are using all their endeavours to recover and restore to the people the cattle and sheep that have been stolen from them by the native "Cogniards" and by the Bashi-Bazouks. As an instance, 350 head of cattle have been thus restored to the villagers of Mataranga, in the district of Carditza. It is with the object of promoting friendly relations between the Ottoman and the Hellenic frontier authorities, and of facilitating the execution of the

so mutually desirable arrangements for the settlement of all differences, that I am anxious to bring about their personal meeting. I have spoken on the subject to Saïd Pasha, and I am glad to say he has expressed his willingness to act upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 319.

Saïd Pasha to M. Palamides.

Le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Mai*, 1878.

M. le Consul,

J'AI honneur de vous informer que sur l'ordre de la Sublime Porte l'autorité Impériale de Thessalie vient d'arrêter toutes les mesures nécessaires pour le rapatriement des familles que lors des derniers troubles se sont réfugié sur le territoire Hellénique. Je crois superflu de m'étendre sur la situation déplorable de ces malheureuses familles restées sans abris et dénuées de toute ressource, et sur la nécessité d'y mettre fin dans l'intérêt de l'humanité. En conséquence je viens vous prier, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien attirer l'attention des autorités Royales Helléniques limitrophes sur cet objet, afin que, de concert avec les nôtres, elles prennent les dispositions qui seront jugées les plus convenables pour effectuer la rentrée des familles dont il s'agit dans leurs foyers le plus promptement possible et conformément aux ordres déjà promulguées.

Je profite, &c.
(Signé) SAID.

Inclosure 5 in No. 319.

Saïd Pasha to M. Palamides.

Larissa, le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Mai*, 1878.

M. le Consul,

LES autorités Impériales de Thessalie ont été à même de constater qu'un grand nombre de bétails enlevés lors des derniers troubles aux habitants sujets Ottomans, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens, se trouvent sur la frontière, dans les localités dites Toura Schourbi et leurs environs, entre les mains des individus qui n'osent passer ni de votre côté ni du nôtre. Les autorités Impériales locales ont cru devoir aviser aux moyens de mettre la main sur les bétails dont il s'agit, afin de les restituer à leurs propriétaires légitimes. Ne doutant nullement que vous conviendrez de la justice qu'il y a à faire rentrer dans la possession de leurs biens les habitants sus-dits, déjà si éprouvés par les derniers événements, comme les individus qui ont enlevé ces bétails sont en partie indigènes et en partie Hellènes, je viens vous prier, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien faire les démarches nécessaires auprès des autorités Royales Helléniques limitrophes afin que, d'accord et conjointement avec les nôtres, elles procèdent à ce qui sera jugé nécessaire pour faire dessaisir les individus en question des bétails qu'ils ont enlevés, à l'effet de les restituer à leurs propriétaires légitimes.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) SAID.

Inclosure 6 in No. 319.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Separate.)

Larissa, May 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, with your approval, conveyed in your Excellency's telegram of the 27th instant, I have requested Mr. Longworth to proceed to Armyro and Pharsala (Turkish "Tchataldja") to watch and report to me if the promises of the Porte for the pacification of Thessaly are carried out in these districts.

I inclose a copy of the instruction which I have addressed to Mr. Longworth accompanied with copies of two of its inclosures, circular telegram from the civil and military authorities at Larissa to the district Governors and Commandants, enjoining them to complete the promises of the Porte; the Circular from Rejeb Pasha. Inclosure No. 3 embodies *seriatim* the promises in question.

I regret that I have no time to prepare and forward translations of these documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 319.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Longworth.

Sir,

Larissa, May 29, 1878.

UNDER authority from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I have to instruct you to proceed as soon as possible to the districts of Armyro and Tchataldja (Pharsala) for the purpose of watching and reporting to me if the promises of the Porte for the pacification of this province are carried out by the local authorities.

These promises consist of—(1), a general and unconditional amnesty; (2), removal of irregulars or Bashi-Bazouks from the province; (3), strict prohibition to Mahommedans and Christians in late insurgent districts to carry arms; (4), release of all prisoners, whether Ottoman or Hellenic subjects, who were directly or indirectly implicated in the insurrection; (5), remission of one year's taxes to the inhabitants of the Christian and Turkish villages, the houses of whom may have been destroyed during the insurrection; (6), Turkish and Greek Governments to give all proper facilities for recovery and restitution of stolen cattle and other property to their owners.

I inclose copies of circular instructions (by telegraph) from Saïd Pasha, Governor of Thessaly, and Rejeb Pasha, Acting Commander-in-chief, enjoining the district civil and military authorities to complete these promises; and I have to request you, in communicating unofficially with the Ottoman authorities at Armyro and Pharsala on the subject of your mission, to impress upon them the necessity faithfully carrying out the instructions embodied in these circulars, and the importance of conciliating the Christian inhabitants.

You will also report to me if the refugees have returned to their homes in districts of Armyro and Pharsala, and whether the Hellenic and Ottoman authorities facilitate their doing so, also what measures the local authorities take for the protection and tranquillity of these refugees.

I inclose a letter of introduction for you from the Governor of Thessaly to the sub-Governors of Armyro and Pharsala.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 320.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 739.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of petitions I have received from Pristina, Touran, and Nekioust (the name of this latter place being almost undecypherable in the Turkish text), protesting against the annexation of their countries to Servia and Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 320.

Petition from Pereshtina.

(Traduction.)

A l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre,

LES Soussignés exposent qu'ils ont vu avec regret dans les journaux que leur pays, en vertu du Traité de San Stefano, fut partagé entre la Principauté de la Serbie

et la Bulgarie. Ils ajoutent que plus des deux tiers de la population sont Musulmans et le reste est composé de Chrétiens appartenant pour la plupart aux rites Latins et Grecs, et parlant tous l'Albanais; qu'il n'y a aucune affinité entre eux et les Slavs, et aucun motif d'annexion au pays de ces derniers; que l'injustice de la clause en question est notoire, et qu'ils ne sauraient sacrifier leur tranquillité et leur avenir en les livrant à la merci des gens qui ont intérêt à les anéantir; qu'ils protestent contre un tel arrangement et font appel à la justice de l'Europe; qu'avec l'expérience qu'ils ont eu de ce que les Slavs sont capables de faire contre eux, ils ne se soumettraient jamais à leur administration et résisteraient par les armes à leur invasion.

En attendant ils prient son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de faire parvenir à son auguste Gouvernement leur demande de protection et d'assistance.

Le 22 Mai, 1878.

(Signé) Les Habitants de la Province de Pereslitini.

Inclosure 2 in No. 320.

Petition from Touran.

(Traduction en résumé.)

LES habitants Musulmans, Chrétiens et Juifs du district de Touran protestent contre l'annexion de leur pays à la nouvelle Bulgarie, attendu qu'ils savent par expérience ce qui les attend sous l'administration Bulgare. Ils invoquent la protection Anglaise.

Le 10 Mai, 1878.

(Suivent environ 160 signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 320.

Protest from Inhabitants of Nekioust against Annexation of their Country.

(Traduction en résumé.)

A l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

LES habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans du district de Nekioust (?) protestent contre l'annexion de leur pays à la Bulgarie. Ils disent qu'ils sont bien plus nombreux que les Bulgares et qu'ils ne se soumettront jamais à l'administration de ces derniers, dont ils connaissent par expérience les tendances sauvages; qu'enfin ils auraient, s'il le faut, recours aux armes pour les repousser.

Mai 1878.

(Suivent un millier de signatures.)

No. 321.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 740.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the proclamation of Prince Dondokoff-Gortchakoff, the newly-appointed Russian Commissioner to Bulgaria, to the inhabitants of that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 321.

Prince Dondokoff-Gortchakoff to Inhabitants of Bulgaria.

(Traduction.)

EN conformité des clauses du Traité de San Stefano, en date de 19 Février, 1878, ayant été nommé, par ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, Commissaire Impérial pour l'administration provisoire de la Bulgarie, je fais savoir aux habitants de cette province, dont toutes les autorités et départements acquièrent leur liberté sous ma direction, que je suis déjà établi dans mes hautes fonctions. Etant voué à la mise en exécution des nobles intentions de mon auguste maître, mes efforts incessants tendront à concentrer toutes les forces locales sur la formation et la perfection, à bref délai, d'un Gouvernement national indépendant, qui, étant basé sur le principe de l'autonomie, est appelé à satisfaire les aspirations et les besoins de la nation regénérée.

Le but que l'on se propose de ce Gouvernement provisoire et de l'existance dans ce Gouvernement de fonctionnaires civils Russes, n'est que celui de préserver le bien-être et la tranquillité de tous en général et de chacun en particulier, sans distinction de race et de religion. Par conséquent tout acte arbitraire et de nature à porter préjudice soit à la personne, soit à la propriété des habitants, devra être puni par les officiers civils.

Que les membres élus des tribunaux, oubliant les anciennes rancunes et inimitiés, démontrent, par leurs décisions impartiales, que le pays est digne et capable d'apprécier sa recente liberté et sa large autonomie. J'invite toutes les forces du pays à une co-opération fraternelle avec le Gouvernement provisoire Russe. Plus cette co-opération sera effective plus l'échange des instruments provisoires importés de la Russie contre des instruments indigènes sera praticable et plus elle rendra facile la confection des lois pour la nouvelle administration et l'élection du Prince.

Tous les employés importés de la Russie ne devraient perdre de vue ce but final. Je compte sur le zèle de tous les employés pour une assistance efficace dans la prompte exécution de la mission qui m'a été confiée par notre auguste maître. Qu'ils invitent à une vie nouvelle et indépendante le pays dont la liberté a été rachetée par le sang précieux des braves et victorieux soldats de la Russie, et que la Bulgarie montre qu'elle est digne de tous ces sacrifices. Prions le Tout Puissant de nous accorder sa divine assistance pour l'accomplissement de la noble tâche qui nous a été confiée par l'ordre auguste de Sa Majesté l'Empereur l'ami de la liberté.

Le Commissaire de l'Empereur Russe,

(Signé) DONDOKOFF-GORTCHAKOFF.

No. 322.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 741.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a list, published by the Greek newspaper the "Neologos," of the Mussulman villages, in the districts of Carlovo and Hasskoui, alleged to have been destroyed by the Bulgarians since the conclusion of the armistice between the Russian Commander-in-chief and the Turkish Plenipotentiaries in the month of January last.

Their number, as your Lordship will perceive, is stated to be no less than fifty-four.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 322.

Newspaper Extract.

LE "Néologos" donne une nouvelle liste des villages Musulmans détruits par les Bulgares, après la conclusion de l'armistice, dans le district de Carlovo.

Ces villages sont :—

1. Rahmanli.
2. Derbent.
3. Téké-Arab.
4. Arab-Yemhéili.
5. Kiranlar.
6. Yemhéli.
7. Kissitlar.
8. Déréli.
9. Ghemhéili.
10. Yan-Ombachi.
11. Axeklissé.
12. Ambarslar.
13. Effchiler.
14. Mioundéréli.
15. Yokari-Omer-Onbachi.
16. Kourkeui.
17. Achaghiki-Omer-Onbachi.
18. Boyouk-Keui.
19. Dari-Onbachi.
20. Tchinkourlon.
21. Mentcheli.
22. Douvoutchilar.
23. Kalfalar.
24. Tchatal-Tépé.
25. Moulanler-Salikeui.
26. Koto-Mahalessi.
27. Kalitzakeui.
28. Déréli.
29. Ghiuleler.
30. Yuktchu-Ghiuleler.
31. Yuktchu-Oktchoular.
32. Issar-Kiosseleri.
33. Issar-Arab.
34. Salamatlar.
35. Demirdjiler.
36. Aïranli.
37. Boyuk-Himetli.
38. Kivirtchikli.
39. Anbarli.
40. Douvanli.
41. Seltchi-Ouuba.
42. Belkeui.
43. Kouri-Himetli.

Dans le district de Haskeui, les villages détruits sont au nombre de onze, savoir :—

1. Séipéli.
2. Kizikli.
3. Karamanlar.
4. Sérémetler.
5. Pinditzak.
6. Gabrovo.
7. Molla-Moussarlar.
8. Moussarlar.
9. Kara-Tarla.
10. Yéni-Mahalé.
11. Khorazlar.

No. 323.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 742.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from a private letter from Mr. Blunt with reference to the state of the Province of Thessaly and the attempt made by certain persons to prevent the return of the refugees from Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 323.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

Larissa, May 30, 1878.

SAID and Rejeb Pashas are very busy concerting measures against the brigands, who are likely to give abundant trouble unless treated at once with the utmost severity. I hear that several of the dispersed bands of insurgents have assembled in the vicinity of Grevena, in and to the north-east of the Vilayet of Janina, and not far from the border of Macedonia, as I don't think they are aware of the conditions of the amnesty, and the late arrangements in Thessaly, the authorities of Janina and those of Salonica should endeavour to communicate with them, and try conciliatory means before employing violent measures.

* * * * *

I believe efforts are made by some parties to detain the refugees in Greece in the hope that political advantage will be derived from the circumstance in the coming

Congress. It will be represented that many thousands of Christians have been forced by Turkish misrule to fly the country and take refuge in Greece, and that they cannot return to their homes so long as the province remains in the hands of the Turks.

No. 324.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 745.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 7, 1878.

I HAVE received a number of petitions and addresses from the inhabitants of various towns and communities in Turkey in Europe protesting against being included in the proposed Bulgarian Principality, and being subjected to Bulgarian rule, but it has been quite impossible for me to get them translated in time to send them by this messenger; I hope to do so by the next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 325.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 81. Political.)
My Lord,

Trebizond, June 8, 1878.

ACCORDING to information received from Erzeroum under date of the 1st instant, the news having spread that war was inevitable, the Mussulman population of the town and of the surrounding country is greatly excited and ready to rush to arms.

The excitement is said to be such that the Russians take the precaution to disarm at the gates of Erzeroum the Turkish soldiers coming in for the purpose of transporting the munitions, and who were allowed hitherto to retain their arms. It is even said that they are no longer allowed to carry out the ammunition still remaining at Erzeroum.

Orders have been received two days ago from Kooid Ismail Pasha to hasten the enrolment of the recruits, of whom 240 only have departed, and to keep the Redifs and the Moustahfiz of this year in readiness.

The munitions, of which there were 2,500 cases here, are being sent to Baiburt and Erzinghian; 800 cases have already left, and are to be followed by 1,200 packages of clothing and military accoutrements, arrived a fortnight ago from Constantinople.

There are in store at Trebizond upwards of 10,000 cannon projectiles, for which no orders have been received.

The Russians, who continue to say that their occupation of Erzeroum is only temporary, are fortifying its western defences. They have sent a few battalions at Gurgi Baghaz on the Olti road, and their sick to Kara-Samich, to which latter place a strong force is said to have been marched from Kars.

The sanitary condition of the Russian troops is described to be so bad that they are incapable to continue to serve. They are sent back to Russia as soon as fresh recruits arrive to replace them.

I have been told that the native Armenian policemen at Erzeroum are so overbearing to the Mussulmans that they emigrate. This report is contradicted by the Armenians, who confirm, however, the fact (assigned by them to other causes) that about 200 families have already emigrated. Those who could find purchasers for their property departed for Diarbekir, even for Damascus; the others have settled in less distant places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 326.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 26. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 8th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the arrival of the French squadron, and incidents of brigand life in the Monastir district.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 11th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, informing his Excellency of the release of the men carried off by the brigands, and of these having returned to their allegiance to the Sultan, and other matters connected with the Circassians, who have petitioned to be sent to Asia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 326.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival here of the French Admiral Le Jeune, flying his flag on board the "Gauloise," and of the French ironclad "Couronne," Commandant Salmon, and of the corvette "Guyene."

We have in port the Italian Vice-Admiral De Saint Bon, on board the ironclad "Principe Amedeo," the "Terribile," and another small man-of-war.

The Defterdar, acting as Governor-General, has notified to me an order from the Porte to the effect that no one will be allowed to go about the country unless furnished with a Government "Teskereh," or passport, and that the hotel-keepers are strictly enjoined to keep a register of the persons who arrive and take up their residence in their hotels.

But great insecurity prevails in this vilayet, and Mr. Suter says also, "everywhere in Thessaly," on account of the bands of robbers who are cropping up again now that the military are all being sent to Constantinople and elsewhere.

The villagers suffer much, but this is a chronic state they are accustomed to. Four of M. Bizzo's peasants were seized and carried off to Mount Olympus, and threatened with death unless the sum of 3,000 Turkish liras were paid; but he has been fortunate enough to release them without much loss.

On the 25th May last, Malios and his band of brigands, forty in number, were unexpectedly attacked by Basil and his band (more in number) near a village called Smurdegh, in the Kastoria district, twelve hours from Monastir, and many of Malios' band were killed, but of course the exact particulars cannot be ascertained. One band of brigands attacks and kills the other in order to get possession of the gold which all carry in their girdles.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 326.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the return here of M. Bizzo from Catterina, after having succeeded in releasing the four men who had been carried off by the brigands.

He has not only recovered them without paying any ransom, but has besides induced the Chief of these brigands, Captain Yanko, together with twenty of his men, to abandon their lawless life, and return to lead a respectable and moral one; and the officer in command of the troops at Catterina has, through his mediation, consented to extend to them the boon of the amnesty proclaimed by His Majesty the Sultan.

There are still many other bands, and it is hoped they will follow the example set them by Yanko. M. Bizzo reports the personal condition of these robbers to be most filthy and miserable.

The authorities promised M. Bizzo that the Circassians shall restore the cattle, but nothing has been done as yet.

The Circassians themselves have petitioned to be sent to Asia, and they will go as soon as there are transports to take them. They are somewhat more than 500.

The French squadron will leave to-day this port on her return to France.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 327.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 19.)

Sir, *Admiralty, June 18, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 327.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Ismid, June 18, 1878, 2 P.M.*

IN consequence of a telegram received from Ambassador, I desired Rear-Admiral at Gallipoli to send a ship to watch Russian movements on the Marmora Island.

"Cygnet" has sailed with orders to prevent landing, according to your telegraph instructions of 21st February.

Following telegram received from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, dated Suda Port, 17th instant:—

"Consul informs me that Governor has taken alarm at probable effect on the Mussulman population of the reported intention of Congress as to the annexation of Candia, and has asked for "Foxhound" to anchor off the west of Candia. I shall send her with judicious instructions, reminding you that I have no instructions, and that difficult questions may arise."

I have no special instructions for Lord John Hay's squadron, but have approved his sending "Foxhound" to Candia for protection of European life and property. Please direct "Antelope's" mails to be sent to Constantinople instead of Dardanelles.

No. 328.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 593.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 18, 1878.*

THE following has been received from Vice-Consul Biliotti, at Trebizond:—

"Laz sent long address to be telegraphed to Lord Beaconsfield and Marquis of Salisbury through your Excellency. They state that, despite contrary declarations, Russia aims only at annexation and predominancy of Orthodoxy over other creeds, and that slackness of habits, propoteney, and opposition to progress prevailing in Russia, they cannot live under her rule. That, excepting 3,000 amongst them, the Laz possess no lands nor money, and have, therefore, no means to emigrate. That to remain and to emigrate being alike impossible, they have sworn to fight, although they know that they cannot resist Russia placing women and children in front of enemy's guns, to see them killed before they die themselves. That hearing that at Congress Lord Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury represent England, whose protection has been asked, they await anxiously for suitable decision, as they cannot admit that the British Representatives will sanction settlement causing death of 200,000 individuals."

No. 329.

Mr. Cross to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1878.

THE following has been received from Admiral Hornby:—

"In consequence of a telegram received from Ambassador, I desired Rear-Admiral at Gallipoli to send a ship to watch Russian movements on Marmora Island. 'Cygnet' has sailed with orders to prevent landing, according to your telegraph instructions of 21st February."

The First Lord of the Admiralty asks Mr. Cross if the Admiral shall be allowed to interpret his instructions so as to prevent landing on Island of Marmora. They both desire you to be informed at once, and suggest that you should yourself telegraph to Layard.

No. 330.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1878, 3:15 P.M.

FOLLOWING order has been sent to Admiral Hornby this day:—

"Instructions of the 21st February do not authorize you to prevent landing of Russians on Marmora Island. Watch, and report their proceedings, but do not interfere."

No. 331.

Mr. Cross to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1878, 3·15 P.M.

BY direction of the Cabinet the following order has been sent to Admiral Hornby this day:—

"Instructions of the 21st February do not authorize you to prevent landing of Russians on Marmora Island. Watch, and report their proceedings, but do not interfere."

The above order has been communicated to Layard.

No. 332.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, June 19, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt has been instructed to convey to M. Ducherf and the other gentlemen officially connected with the Suez Canal an acknowledgment of the courtesy displayed by them in regard to the passage through the Canal of Indian transports.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 333.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 72. Political.)

Trebizond, May 25, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Hellenic Colony of Trebizond having presented to me, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Queen's birthday, an address, in which the hope is expressed that

the wishes contained in it for the health of Her Majesty and the prosperity of the British nation may reach the throne, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of it.

The Agent at Trebizond of the population of the Lazistan has also presented to me an address, which I likewise transmit herewith for your Lordship's information. These addresses are the first that were ever presented at Trebizond on similar occasions.

It would seem that the Greek subjects of the Porte intended to take also a similar step, but that, at the last moment, some of the chiefs deemed it more prudent to abstain from making this manifestation, after the affair at the Palace of Tcheraghan, which, being imperfectly known here, was highly exaggerated.

I may add that the head of the Roman Catholic Franciscan Mission here, the representative of the Armenian Catholics, and several leading Mussulmans, who had never before made calls on the Queen's birthday, came also on this occasion to present their congratulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 333.

The Hellenes of Trebizond to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Translation.)

Trebizond, May 24, 1878.

Sir,

THE Hellenes have had at all times many and strong motives to be grateful to the magnanimous and liberty-loving English nation, and they have never ceased to look attentively to it with hope. At the present moment, when Hellenism is subject to the most serious trials, and is menaced of the greatest dangers, these sentiments of gratitude and hope lit up more vividly than ever the hearts of all Hellenes, wherever they may live, and rightly so, for in England was heard again the noble voice in favour of their nation, and in England was taken the manly and unalterable decision to support Pan-Hellenic rights.

Animated with these same feelings the Hellenic Colony, in this remote Hellenic corner, has considered it a duty to express to you, Sir, this day, on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, their ardent wishes for the health of Queen Victoria, and for the prosperity of liberty-loving English nation.

The undersigned having accepted this mandate will consider themselves happy if these hearty wishes reach so far as Her Majesty's throne.

The representatives of this Colony of Hellenes avail themselves of this opportunity to present to you, Sir, their respects, and express their esteem and regard for yourself, the worthy Representative of the British Government in this town.

We have, &c.
(The Representatives),
(Signed) A. TRIANDAFILLIDIS.
P. PATRONIS.
P. D. PSOMIADIS.
S. MELIDIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 333.

The Agent of Laz at Trebizond to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Translation.)

Trebizond, May $\frac{13}{14}$, 1878.

Sir,

THE populations of the Lazistan, in the distressed position in which they were placed in consequence of the late events in the Ottoman Empire, having turned all their hopes towards Great Britain, are happy to avail themselves of the anniversary of the Queen's birthday to express through the undersigned, their Agent at Trebizond, their very sincere wishes for Her Majesty's happiness and long life. They hope that these hearty wishes may reach Her Majesty, who, they trust, will not reject the humble prayers contained in their former addresses.

The Agent of the Populations of the Lazistan,
(Signed) AALI.

No. 334.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 33. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, May 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that it is rumoured here that an address to the Sultan has been prepared by certain Mussulmans of this town, and is now being circulated for signature. As far as I can learn, the address contains the following demands:—That Christians cease to be employed under Government; that the bells be removed from the Orthodox Church; that the third class of Redif be disbanded; and that an Austrian occupation of the country be resisted to the utmost. The ostensible movers in this matter appear to be Hadji Kaukgee, Imam of the principal Mosque, and a certain Suleiman Effendi Yamakovic, but at the instigation, it is supposed, of other and more influential persons. About 500 signatures are said to have been already affixed to the address, but chiefly by the lower classes, the more intelligent and respectable Mussulmans declining to have anything to do with it. I hear that these latter are threatened by the promoters of the scheme with eventual banishment from the country for their abstention, and also that the address is finally to be presented to the Governor-General, and it is intimated that if he refuse his signature he will be at once dismissed. Some persons seem to anticipate disturbances in the town in connection with this affair, but I think that nothing is to be feared if the authorities assume a firm attitude, more especially as they can rely on the support of the more respectable portion of the Mussulman community. It is, however, rumoured, I must admit, that certain of the authorities themselves are the chief agitators.

The Mussulmans of this province are, as I have frequently reported, so disheartened by their losses and by the result of the war with Russia, that, unless instigated to opposition, they will accept with resignation almost any change of Government or administration. Convinced of the inability of the Porte to any longer afford them efficient protection, they would be quite willing to see the country occupied by Austria; not from any particular liking for that Power, but, left to choose between anarchy or annexation to Servia, to Montenegro, or to Austria, they prefer the latter as the lesser evil. These, I have been assured by Turks themselves, are the opinions of nine-tenths of the Bosnian Mussulmans, but they dare not openly express them. They are also anxious to know what attitude the Turkish Government intends to assume in the event of Austrian troops passing the frontier. They see the hopelessness of armed resistance with the military force at present in the country, and foresee that it would in all probability bring on them the same sufferings as have been experienced by the Mussulmans in Bulgaria. I have been, however, informed on good authority that orders have been already given for the Mussulmans to burn their villages and retire as soon as Austrian troops cross the frontier. Unfortunately, interested parties endeavour to ill-dispose the Mussulmans towards Austria, by telling them that they will not be permitted the free exercise of their religion, that the seclusion of their women will be intruded on, and that their lands and houses will be taken from them.

I also hear that an address is being prepared by the Orthodox community of this town to the Greek Patriarch at Constantinople, representing their objection to the annexation of their country to either Servia or Austria, and their wish to remain subjects of the Porte; and expressing also their confidence in the ability and inclination of the present Governor-General, Mazhar Pasha, to introduce all necessary reforms in the administration. It is not difficult to see that this address at all events has been promoted by the local Government, and the draft of it was, I know, written by a Greek employé of the Porte. The Orthodox Christians of this province are certainly not favourable to an Austrian occupation, as they consider it would be a fatal blow to their national aspirations, but to say that they prefer remaining Ottoman subjects to being annexed to Servia is a statement so improbable as to hardly need denial, and any petition in that sense cannot be taken as the spontaneous expression of the wishes of the Orthodox Bosnians.

Whatever form the future Government of this province is to take, it is most desirable that the change should be effected without further delay, for the state of the country is daily becoming more unsatisfactory. Reports come from all directions of the appearance of bands of Mussulman brigands, chiefly deserters from the army, and I am told that a few nights ago as many as eighty soldiers deserted from the garrison of this town. This is probably an exaggeration, but that desertions are of daily occurrence, from the Nizam as well as from the Redif and Mustahfiz, throughout the country, is unquestionable, and it is with the greatest difficulty also that the Spahis can be kept under arms. Poverty, misery, and want are vastly on the increase, especially amongst the Mussulmans, owing to the protracted service of the Redif and Mustahfiz; and finally, this prolonged inaction and suspense tends to weaken the Government in the eyes of all classes of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 335.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 34. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, May 29, 1878.

My Lord,

A FEW days before Vice-Consul Cooper quitted Mostar he wrote to me that it was rumoured that some of the fugitives from the neighbourhood of Nevesinje had returned, wearing the Montenegrin cap and carrying arms. I am now informed that they number about 150, all males. They have neither made their submission to the Turkish authorities nor put themselves in communication with the Turkish landowners, but have settled at different places between Nevesinje and Stolac and began tilling the soil. They state, it is said, that they were ordered to return by the Prince of Montenegro, and that the question of their nationality would be settled later. The Turkish authorities, not knowing how to act in the matter, applied for instructions to Constantinople, and were told not to molest or interfere with these men as long as they remained quiet.

A concentration of Servian troops is reported to have taken place on the Rogosna Planina between Mitrovica and Novi-Bazar, on Turkish territory. They are said to number about 20,000 men, and to be constructing earthworks at certain strong positions. Communications are not, however, as yet interrupted between Mitrovica and Novi-Bazar.

Turkish reinforcements to the number of eighteen battalions are said to be on their way to the district of Novi-Bazar.

With reference to my despatch No. 32 of the 13th instant, Captain Milinkovic was, like myself, stopped at the Servian outposts at Banja and refused permission to proceed by that route to Novi-Varos. It is surmised that the Servians are fortifying certain positions in that district, and on that account persistently refuse to allow anyone to pass.

Captain Milinkovic will, it appears, proceed from Novi-Bazar to Mostar, his object being, it is asserted, to discover the most available route for the passage of troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 336.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 35. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the notables of this town, Christian as well as Mussulman, were summoned the day before yesterday to the Konak to hear a communication from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, received the previous day by post, in reply to an application from the Governor-General, Mazhar Pasha, for instructions as to what course he was to pursue with regard to the agitation caused by the rumoured approaching occupation of Bosnia by Austria, and to the alleged departure of a Bosnian deputation for Vienna to advocate annexation to the Austrian Empire.

His Excellency Safvet Pasha stated that no deputation from Bosnia had arrived at Vienna, that no Austrian occupation of the country was contemplated, and that

there was therefore no cause for agitation on this score; that according to the Treaty of San Stefano Bosnia remains under the direct authority of the Porte, but that a quasi-autonomous administration would be introduced; that a scheme was under consideration, which would, he trusted, give satisfaction both to Mussulmans and Christians, and which would in due course be communicated to the Governor-General, but that in the meantime he was to carry on the Government as heretofore.

This announcement has given considerable satisfaction, and the wording of the address referred to in my despatch No. 33, Political, of the 27th instant, is said in consequence to have been considerably altered, and it no longer contains anything adverse to the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 337.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 17. Political.)
Adrianople, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, upon the final rejection of the pacific proposals of the Russo-Turkish Commissioners at Philippopolis, a general attack was commenced on the 28th instant by the Russian troops on the insurgent positions in the valley of the Arda, and, it is believed, along the whole line as far as the neighbourhood of Tatar-Bazardjik.

The attack had been in preparation for some time previously. Since the 12th instant troops and artillery from Adrianople and Philippopolis were concentrated at Hasskioï, and on the 25th a number of Turkish villages scattered between the skirts of the hills and a point within four hours of Hasskioï were demolished to prevent their serving as cover to the insurgents. On the 26th, besides other artillery already sent forward, fifteen field-pieces of large calibre and fifteen double caissons were dispatched in that direction.

On the 25th instant a detachment of infantry and Cossacks, whilst on a reconnaissance near Aklatli (beyond Ortakioï), were attacked by insurgents, who obliged them to retire with the loss of five men wounded.

The general attack commenced on the morning of the 28th instant. A vigorous artillery fire was kept up during the whole of that day from the Russian positions at Brioren, Sel-bükrüm, Mahmoudlu, Plevon, Muscllim, and Ateren. The attack was resumed yesterday morning. Up to the latest advices received, the only point where the Russians had obtained an advantage was at the village of Mangouf, two hours from Ortakioï; 400 infantry, supported by a field-piece, obtained possession of that village and of both banks of the stream (a tributary of the Arda) on which it is situated. At all the other points the insurgents held their ground, and they had assumed the offensive at Muscllim and Ateren, which were defended by the Christian volunteers.

No details are yet known here of the fighting further to the westward, which is likely to be of a more important character.

The strategical motives of the present simultaneous attack will be obvious when it is considered that besides the native inhabitants of each district there is a large body of fighting men, chiefly fugitives from the plains, who, during the desultory warfare which has prevailed hitherto, have moved about from one spot to another as the occasion required.

I may here refer to the subject of a very serious disaster which, it is now certain, befell part of the Russian forces operating in the Rhodope Mountains towards the end of last month. His Excellency the Ambassador will have received directly from two independent sources information bearing on that matter. The truth of the main facts, as communicated to me at the time from the same sources, I am now able, on unquestionable authority, to confirm. A detachment of 400 infantry with four field-pieces left Stanimak on a reconnaissance on or about the 25th ultimo. The detachment was surrounded by a body of insurgents at Taltali, and cut off to a man, the guns being captured. A second detachment sent in search of the first narrowly escaped the same fate. News of the disaster reached Adrianople on the evening of the 2nd instant, just as a public concert was being given at the Government House. A great commotion among the officers present was remarked and the entertainment was suddenly broken

off, giving rise to the belief at the time among the public here that war had been declared. As silence was strictly enjoined it is only now that the facts have come to my knowledge, indirectly, from an authentic Russian source.

Persons arrived from Kirk-Kilissé report that the movement among the Mussulman fugitives in the hills towards Bourgas, mentioned in my despatches to your Lordship Nos. 12 and 13 of the 8th and 11th instant, has been brought to a close by the withdrawal of the fugitives to Tchinghiané-Iskelessi, where they were embarked about ten days ago in steamers sent for the purpose from Constantinople. Along with them were the native inhabitants of Ernekioï, Karanlyk-deré, Kara-oven, Deniz-oba, Tikendjé, Alagunié, and other villages in those parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 338.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 70. Political. Confidential.)
Belgrade, May 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I ARRIVED here on the evening of the 29th, and had yesterday a conversation with M. Ristich, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I had no other credential to present than a letter from Sir Henry Elliot to myself, expressive of your Lordship's wish that I should take temporary charge of this Agency and Consulate-General.

His Excellency spoke to me very openly of his fears lest the Great Powers, in the coming Congress, should deprive Servia of those places which, during the late war, she had succeeded in capturing, and where, during the armistice, her troops have been allowed to remain; and informed me confidentially that already, as regards the south-western frontier, his Government had been distinctly advised that the Austrian Government will neither permit any increase of Servian territory on that side, or entertain in Congress any proposal with that object in view.

The ambitious hope of retaining Novi-Bazar, and securing the country which lies between that place and Prizren, as alluded to in Mr. White's despatch No. 55 of the 27th April last, is thus entirely thwarted at the outset; but, judging from M. Ristich's language, it can never have been very sanguine, whilst the fond aim of Servian statesmanship seems to be the possession of Pirot (Sharkoï).

The Austrian Government appears to have instructed its agent here, Prince Wrede, to reassure the Servian Government on this point, and to declare that it will not oppose an extension to Pirot on the south-east frontier, nor even to Vrania (Vranja) on the south.

Not only is Pirot a larger place than Belgrade, but the country around it is extremely fertile, and its position, situated as it is on the projected line of railway from Sofia to Nisch, is both valuable on commercial and strategical grounds.

M. Ristich is sanguine that, were an appeal to be made to the people of Pirot, who are of Servian extraction, as he tells me, they would all vote for annexation to Servia.

The possession of Vranja would secure for this country the valleys of the Morava and Ibar, but would not add very materially to its present strength.

These points must naturally be decided by the Congress, and hence M. Ristich's anxiety to be allowed to send a Servian Representative to it; but having asked Russian advice on the subject, the answer appears to have been that, after the Great Guaranteeing Powers have settled among them the main points on which they differ, Russia will promote the cause of the smaller States, and endeavour to obtain for them a hearing.

This answer is too vague to indicate more than a wish on the part of Russia not to assume any responsibility in the matter, and M. Ristich seemed to adopt this view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 339.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 73. Political. Very Confidential.)
Belgrade, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

PRINCE WREDE, the Austrian Political Agent and Consul-General at this place, called upon me this morning and was good enough to volunteer some information, which had all the more value in my eyes that it confirmed the intelligence I had already been able to transmit to your Lordship.

The Prince told me, with a request that all he said to me should be considered as strictly secret, that his Government could never allow any extension of the Servian frontier to the south-west, and especially the annexation of Novi-Bazar to the Principality, as this place lay on the projected line of railway from Mitrovitza through Bosnia to Hungary, which line, he said, must remain entirely under Austrian control.

"It was only fair, however, that the Servians should be compensated for this disappointment, and he had informed M. Ristich, on the part of his Government, that Austria would not object to the annexation of Nisch and Pirot which they so much coveted, nor even Vranja, to the south."

"Indeed," added the Prince, "this intention, together with the motives which induced it, had already been communicated to General Ignatieff by Count Andrassy, on the occasion of the General's last visit to Vienna."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 340.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 74. Political.)
Belgrade, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I WAS received this morning in private audience by His Highness Prince Milan, who, during the course of an hour's interview, repeatedly endeavoured to convince me that his greatest aim was to merit the sympathies of all the Great Powers, and to dispel the idea that he was a creature of Russia only.

If His Highness had taken less pain to impress me on this point, his assurances might have had a greater value.

There is no doubt, however, that, apart from his own personal Russian connections and sympathies, the Prince must see that, as the day of Servian independence is drawing near, it is in his interest to conciliate more than the goodwill of a single Power, and the tone of his conversation appeared to me to show that he understood this requirement.

His Highness talked to me of the urgent want felt by his country of possessing a railway, without which it was impossible for its peasant population to develop the resources at their command; and although he seemed to hope that such a railway would form part eventually of Servian State property, still he acknowledged that the required funds must come from outside, and recognized the necessity on this ground of inducing foreign capitalists to lend him their support. He was very anxious to know how long the Congress would last, whenever it met, as he thought that upon its duration the realization of his wishes entirely depended. He had, he said, given up all hopes of extension of territory in the direction of Bosnia, but he trusted that there would be no difficulty raised as to Pirot.

The general impression left upon my mind was that the Prince felt both insecure in his present position, and, indeed, personally not over anxious to retain it, while he builds his hopes of security and consolidation upon the results of the coming Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 341.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 108. Political.)
Bucharest, June 1, 1878.

My Lord,

THIS Government have sent M. Bratiano, a brother of the President of the Council of Ministers, on a special mission to the Porte, and he sails to-day from Galatz for Constantinople.

This gentleman was at Constantinople at the time of the Conference in 1876, and is supposed to be friendly to Turkey: he is, I believe, instructed to try and establish friendly relations between Roumania and the Ottoman Empire, and I gave him a private letter to introduce him to Her Majesty's Ambassador at that Court.

The British trade with this country by sea has so considerably increased of late, that if Roumania is to lose the mouths of the Danube, it would be greatly desirable that some other means should be found to give British ships direct access to Roumania by the Black Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 342.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 447. Secret.)
Vienna, June 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED yesterday evening your Lordship's telegram directing me to reassure Count Andrassy about the statement in the "Globe" of the agreement that had been come to between Her Majesty's Government and Russia, and saying that though public opinion in England would not allow you to contend for the unrestricted liberty of the Turkish troops in the districts where the excesses were committed two years ago, you were perfectly free to contend that the Porte should have in the southern province the military hold necessary for the maintenance of its political security and supremacy, upon which you counted on Count Andrassy's co-operation in Congress.

Knowing the uneasy feeling that had been caused by the statement of the "Globe," I at once communicated the substance of this instruction to Count Andrassy in a private note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 343.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 75. Political.)
Belgrade, June 5, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT BRENSON, a young Russian officer, has been here since the 30th ultimo, and left this morning for Montenegro.

He was bearer of letters from General Todtleben to the Princes of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro, and it is generally believed that these letters purported to express the views of the General as to the action which each of these Principalities should take in the event of a renewal of hostilities, but I have no present means of ascertaining the correctness of this last statement.

I do not, however, attach much importance to such missions, as from what I hear they appear to me to be of repeated occurrence here, where, until peace is actually signed, and the Congress places the country in a different position from that which it has hitherto occupied, it is bound at the least to look upon itself as the ally of its powerful protector, and hence to receive its warnings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 344.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 76 Political.)

Belgrade, June 3, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, authorizing me to send Lieutenant Marshall to Pirot, I addressed to him the instructions of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and I have besides cautioned him verbally against appearing in any way to mix up his duties as Vice Consul with those which might appear more natural in a Military Attaché.

I have also obtained for Mr. Marshall the letters necessary to ensure his proper treatment as Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in Servia, and due attention on the part of the military authorities when he enters Old Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Mr. Jerningham to Vice-Consul Marshall.

Belgrade, June 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has sanctioned my proposal of sending you to Pirot, and generally to the lines which the Servian troops were allowed to retain at the signature of the late armistice.

As you are aware I did not recommend to Lord Salisbury that your mission should bear any particular official character, and I have therefore to instruct you to act with the greatest caution when, on leaving the boundaries of Servia as they were fixed by the Hatti Sherif of August 1833, you will enter the country which has lately been provisionally occupied by its troops.

Throughout actual Servian territory you have, of course, the right to claim the privileges attached to your office of Vice-Consul in Servia, but outside this boundary you will consider yourself as an ordinary traveller.

I need not remind you of the value I attach to a detailed and correct report of the actual positions of the Servian army, and especially of the pressure or influence which these troops are likely, or are made to exercise on the immediately adjoining populations, and whether especially there is any point on the road to Sofia where the Russians are at the present time uniting with the Servians.

You will take the route of Semendria and Alexinatz to Ak Palanka, thence to Nisch and Pirot, and you will proceed as far as Vranja.

On your return you will draw up a report to myself for transmission to the Secretary of State on all the points which will have come under your notice, and you will accompany it with a statement of your travelling expenses, together with the vouchers you may find it possible to obtain in support of these.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 345.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 78. Political. Confidential.)

Belgrade, June 4, 1878.

My Lord,

IT was suddenly resolved last night that Mr. Ristich should leave to-morrow early for Vienna, *en route* for Berlin, where he takes with him a Memorandum of Servian claims to be laid before the Congress.

I saw M. Ristich in the course of the day, and ascertained from him that his aim is to obtain from the Powers, in the first place, the recognition of the new state of things which the war has created as regards Servia, and hence the necessity of proclaiming the absolute independence of the Principality, and the modification of its actual boundaries on the other.

I have, in my preceding despatches, indicated to your Lordship the nature of these

modifications, but a conversation I had with the Russian Agent, M. Persiani, with whom I have been well acquainted for several years, showed me that the Russian Government are by no means disposed to allow Pirot to be possessed by the Servians, though, like the Austrians, they will make no difficulty as to Vranja.

The latter place is of no practical utility, but Pirot is a large industrial town, which, as a central point on the road to Sofia, must add strength to whichever Power has the good fortune to secure it.

M. Ristich showed me a statistical table, of which your Lordship has already been furnished with a copy, I believe, from which I gather that there are 3,000 families of Servian origin, against 400 of other descendance in Pirot, and he challenges a vote there for annexation to Servia.

My Russian colleague accepts the challenge on behalf of the Bulgarians, but I believe I am not mistaken in recognizing therein rather a desire to set Pirot off against Novi-Bazar, which the Austrians have determined shall not be incorporated by Servia.

M. Ristich, under the circumstances, is full of apprehensions and fears, and urged by Russia, whose present policy seems to be to frighten Servia as to the ultimate designs of Austria, while she holds out Pirot as a reward for Servian submission; he starts for the Congress with a fair margin of time for canvassing the sympathies of those who are to take part in it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 346.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 37. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, June 4, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 33, Political, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that there is great agitation among the Mussulmans of this town in connection with the address to the Sultan.

It has now transpired that this address was originally prepared at the instigation of the Governor-General Mazhar Pasha himself. Between him and the Musteshar, Constant Pasha, there is great rivalry, each aspiring to the post of Governor of Bosnia when the promised autonomous administration be introduced. Mazhar Pasha having been informed, I believe falsely, that Constant Pasha was getting up a petition in his favour from the Orthodox population, thought to counteract this by one from the Mussulmans in his own favour, and the original draft was even made by the Mektoubgee Teofik Bey. This address, however, which was to have been only a patriotic effusion and an expression of confidence in the present Governor-General, gradually assumed another and more disquieting character, and the Pasha found that he had raised a storm which he was powerless to calm. The address has been actually delivered to Mazhar Pasha for transmission to Constantinople, and is said, while protesting strongly against any foreign intervention, to demand that the men of the Redif and Mustahfiz be sent to their homes, and that the country in future be governed, not according to the "Kanoun" and "Nizam," or Civil and Reformed Code, but solely according to the "Sheriat," or religious law.

In connection with this affair I may mention that a few days ago, when the public crier was announcing some new municipal regulation, a certain Hadji Bilalic, who had been active in obtaining signatures to the address, said to him, "Cry loud, cry loud, for you won't cry these things much longer." This being reported he was arrested and imprisoned, but a number of Turks instantly repaired to the Konak, or Government House, and demanded his release, stating that he had only expressed the sentiments of the whole Mussulman population, and that if he was kept in prison the Government had better imprison them all.

As I reported in my previous despatch on this subject, the more respectable class of Mussulmans are strongly opposed to all this agitation, and they lately held a meeting to discuss what course they should pursue. It was decided to let matters take their course for a day or two in the hope that the agitation might calm down, but otherwise they agreed to telegraph a request to the Porte to adopt immediate measures to ensure the maintenance of order and tranquillity. Some of the leading

Christians will also then be invited to associate themselves with the Mussulmans in this step.

The recruiting papers for the third class of Redif have just been issued in the Sandjaks of Serajevo, Travnik, and Svornik, but opposition to the measure is anticipated, and it is even feared that it may be the signal for disturbances.

To add to the general feeling of uneasiness, Sunday last, on the occasion of the interment of a wealthy Christian merchant, a Dervish passing at the moment on horseback made insulting remarks, and exclaimed that in a few days the life of no one of the Christians would be worth fifteen paras. I hear to-day that this man has been arrested.

Myself I still think that tranquillity will be maintained, although doubtless the moment is a critical one. The Christians are in considerable fear of an outburst of Moslem fanaticism, and many respectable Turks admit that, though for the moment discontent with the Government is the prevailing sentiment, should any disturbance occur it might take a turn not at present contemplated, and be fraught with as much danger to themselves for holding aloof as to the Christians.

After these events Mazhar Pasha can hardly be left here any longer, as his authority will be quite destroyed, and I would therefore take this opportunity of stating to your Lordship my belief that the only man likely to succeed as Governor of Bosnia, either now or after the introduction of administrative autonomy, is the late Minister of War, Réouf Pasha. During the short time he was Governor-General of this province in 1875 he won for himself an excellent reputation with all sects and classes, and it is even admitted that had he not been removed the insurrection in the Herzegovina would probably never have assumed such important dimensions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN

No. 347.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 110. Political.)
Bucharest, June 4, 1878.

My Lord,

AS could have been expected, the prospect of some determination of the Great Powers, unfavourable to Roumania, is the cause of an increasing anxiety here.

The question of Bessarabia is of course principally in the minds of every one here, but it is obvious that several solutions of that question and several special arrangements might suggest themselves which would not be quite so distasteful to the Roumanians as the retrocession "pure et simple" must naturally be, and at the same time would diminish the dangers likely to accrue to Europe by letting Russia have her way entirely in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 348.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 18. Political.)
Adrianople, June 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the general attack recently made by the Russians on the insurgent positions has failed, so far, at least, as regards the neighbourhood of Ortakioï, the lower Arda, and the parts towards Hasskioï.

Travellers from the last-named place report that, notwithstanding the continuous and heavy firing kept up during the 28th and 29th ultimo, no impression was made on the insurgent lines, which remain as before, at a distance of not more than four or five hours from Hasskioï. Many wounded Russians have been brought into that town.

As regards the Russian success at Mangouf, reported in my last despatch to your Lordship of the 31st ultimo, it is said to have proved but a fleeting one. That village, I now learn, lies on the right bank of the Arda itself, opposite to Sel-bükrüm. The Russian infantry, fording the river, occupied the village without opposition, the

Turkish inhabitants retiring before them. When, however, the Russians endeavoured to push into the country beyond they were received with a vigorous fire, in which, to their surprise, the small-arms of the insurgents were supported by four mountain howitzers. As the troops had been unable to bring any artillery across the river, they were compelled to fall back with heavy loss. The officer in command then sent a message through a Turkish hodja of Tchirmen to Djumyarli Ismail Aga, the leader of the insurgents in those parts, asking him how it was that he resisted Russian authority, seeing that its legitimacy was recognized by the Ottoman Government. The officer at the same time intimated that the reason of this particular attack was that three Bulgarians had recently been killed by the Turks of Mangouf, and he demanded that the assassins should be given up to him. To this Ismail Aga replied that, in the first place he did not recognize the authority of the Porte, and that, as regarded the three murdered Bulgarians, he knew the guilty parties, and was ready to deliver them up, only he must first require the Russian authorities to make over to him, or to punish themselves, the Bulgarians who had killed sixty or seventy Turks of the neighbouring villages before. He added that it was the fate of those Turks which had obliged him and his followers to take up arms in defence of their own lives, and that the acts complained of were but reprisals for unpunished injuries.

The insurgents have achieved success at another point, at Plivon — or, more correctly, Plevon—a Greek village of 150 houses, two hours from Ortakioï, towards Gumurjina, and one of the principal Russian bases of operations during the late general attack.

In the forenoon of Sunday last, the 31st May, whilst the inhabitants were at church, a body of insurgents surprised the village, and there is too much reason to believe that they massacred many men, women, and children, although it may be hoped the number given (200) has been exaggerated. On this occasion again the insurgents were supported by mountain guns. Although a Russian force was stationed not far from the place, it was not deemed expedient to attack the Turks there, but towards the evening 600 infantry, 150 cavalry, and 3 field-pieces, were dispatched from Ortakioï to Karatepeh (three or four hours from Ortakioï) by way of Brukovina, whilst another similar force, with three more guns, took the road to Hissarlik, the object of this combined movement being to cut off the retreat of the insurgents. The result is not yet known.

According to the latest accounts received—which do not come beyond the afternoon of the day of the attack—the church at Plevon was still held against the assailants by a body of volunteers under the command of the Bulgarian brigand chief, Petko. This is the same notorious outlaw whose landing at Maronia, near Dédéagatch, with a band of followers, about this time last year, and whose subsequent deeds of bloodshed and robbery formed the subject of several reports of Mr. Vice-Consul Willshire, of Dédéagatch. Petko was believed to have been afterwards killed in an encounter with the Turkish police. When, however, the Russians advanced into that part of the country the brigand chief reappeared in the character of a private individual, and went about without let or hindrance. Whether this fact may be taken or not as a confirmation of the belief which prevailed from the first, that his descent on the coast was not unconnected with political agencies, certain it is that this blood-stained criminal has been invested by the Russian military authorities with the command of a body of the volunteers now operating against the insurgents.

There have been vague but persistent rumours within the last day or two of a disaster to the Russian arms in some part of the hilly districts opposite to Hasskioï and Philippopolis, and between those two places. I have been unable as yet to ascertain whether there is any foundation for those rumours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 349.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 453. Secret.)
Vienna, June 6, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Roumanian Agent called upon me two days ago, and said that he had received instructions, by a telegram of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, to

endeavour to obtain from Count Andrassy a categorical declaration of his intentions respecting the demand of Russia for the cession of Bessarabia.

M. Balatchano said that his Government was under the impression that Great Britain and Austria had determined to permit the sacrifice of Roumania, and he wished to know whether the European Powers would not only give their sanction to this act of spoliation, but would be prepared to use force for its consummation, for force, he declares, will have to be used, as the Principality is resolved not to submit to any mere expression of a wish that the cession may be acquiesced in. If the Congress simply decides not to oppose the demand, but to leave Russia to arrange the question, that Power would have to begin by the destruction of the Roumanian army, and commit in the face of the world a perfidious act of violent spoliation, for which it would be difficult to find a parallel in the history of the most unscrupulous nation.

Count Andrassy, who has spoken to me on the subject of M. Balatchano's communication, observed that he did not think it possible to make the Bessarabian question, taken by itself, a cause of war, but he seems by no means inclined to leave it out of account in dealing with the whole question of the revision of the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 349.

The Roumanian Government to Agent at Vienna.

(Télégraphique.)
(Extrait.)

Bucarest, le 2 Juin, 1878.

NOUS ne céderons pas un pouce de la Bessarabie, pour la plus brillante des compensations. Nous avons 60,000 hommes dans de fortes positions, et le pays est prêt à se lever, tout entier, pour défendre son droit. Nous désirons savoir si l'Autriche-Hongrie est aussi décidée que nous. Obtenez du Comte Andrassy une déclaration catégorique. Le moment est décisif; car la Roumanie est à la veille de jouer son va-tout.

No. 350.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 459. Confidential.)

Vienna, June 6, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY spoke to me to-day about the Convention which had been proposed by the Porte respecting the occupation of Bosnia by an Austrian force, saying that it had so nearly the character of a defensive alliance that he could not accept it as it stood.

By one clause it was expressly provided that the Austrian forces should act with those of Turkey in resisting any attack by Servia or Montenegro; and as an engagement of this kind would commit him in a manner that might prove inconvenient, he said he would be extremely obliged if your Lordship thought it possible to instruct Mr. Layard to represent to the Porte that with a view to the support that Austria may give in getting arrangements about Bulgaria advantageous to Turkey, it should facilitate as much as possible the question of the occupation.

He remarked also that all mention about the return of the refugees was omitted, and that there were provisions to prevent all interference of the Austrian Commanders in matters connected with the internal administration, but he could not, he said, go so far as to promise that, if the refugees who returned became the object of ill-treatment or had just ground of complaint against the local authorities, the Commanders of the troops, who would be there partly for their protection, should abstain from interesting themselves in their behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 351.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 20.)

(No. 49.)

Buda-Pesth, June 6, 1878.

Sir,

IN forwarding to your Excellency the accompanying despatches, which have reached me under flying seal, from Mr. Freeman, I beg to draw your attention to the opinion expressed by Vice-Consul Cooper, in his despatch No. 26 of the 20th ultimo, respecting the consequences, as regards the town of Trebinje, which would result from the adoption of the new frontier between Montenegro and the Herzegovina, proposed by the Treaty of San Stefano.

While I hardly go as far as Mr. Cooper in thinking that Trebinje would become for the Turks a second Nicksich, the object of constant attack on the part of the Montenegrins, I am ready to admit, that with the newly-proposed frontier, the town will hardly be worth retention by the Turks. Trebinje is distant only five hours from Ragusa, with which it is connected by a good carriage-road, but there is not much cultivated (or cultivable) land in its vicinity, except in the direction of the Trebinjcica Valley. The town itself is but a poor place, containing a small Mussulman population; but it is clear that Austria could never allow it to fall into the hands of Montenegro. At the same time it must be remembered that the Zubci and Bunjani districts, contiguous to which Trebinje is situated, have been for years practically administered by Prince Nicholas, and their inhabitants, to all intents and purposes, have been His Highness' subjects. If any rectification of the frontier on this side is to be made at all, it would be difficult to find any districts to which the Prince might lay claim with so fair a show of reason as the two above mentioned.

I am referring to this special point, because it seems to me a good illustration of the general difficulty in which Austria is placed with regard to territorial changes in Servia and Montenegro; and an example of the manner in which almost every such change is calculated to be to her prejudice. The more one studies the question, the more irresistible appears the conclusion, that its only durable solution will be found in the entire annexation by Austria of the two provinces to which Prince Milan and Prince Nicholas will otherwise be everlastingly trying to help themselves. By such annexation I do not, of course, intend it to be understood that a moderate extension of the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro would not be at once equitable and salutary; but simply that any extension whatever renders the absorption by Austria of the remainder of the outlying Turkish provinces an almost unavoidable necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 352.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 460.)

Vienna, June 7, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Delegations have voted the money expended upon the maintenance of the Turkish refugees for the month of May, and that which will be required for June, but they coupled their vote with the expression of a hope that the Government would take steps to make this the last occasion upon which the Chambers should be called upon to provide the funds for such an object.

They are, I apprehend, likely to be disappointed in this expectation, as there is but slight probability of arrangements being made which shall enable the refugees to return to Bosnia before the end of the present month, and till the Congress has decided how the Bosnian question is to be settled, the refugees must remain in Austria.

Your Lordship has already been informed that unless those arrangements are such as to leave the Porte with sufficient authority for the maintenance of order, the Austrian Government will consider the occupation and annexation of the province as indispensable for the security and tranquillity of their own territory; but the impression that has sometimes prevailed that the Austrian Government have any desire to acquire this province is certainly an erroneous one.

Had they wished for it they need only have accepted the suggestion of Russia

that they should do so when it was made many months ago at a time that an influential party here advocated this form of arrangement, which was also recommended to them from other quarters.

They rejected that overture, and the feeling which has since become general is that, though the annexation might be made indispensable, it could never be desirable for this country.

Your Lordship will find in a despatch from Mr. Monson,* which I forward by this messenger, some remarks upon the manner in which Austria will be affected by the extensions which it has been proposed to give to Montenegro; and I may be permitted to take this opportunity of observing that although our interests are, of course, not so directly engaged in it, the question of the frontiers to be assigned to that Principality could not properly be regarded as a matter of indifference to Great Britain and to Europe.

Our object must be to endeavour to secure a settlement that shall have sufficient elements of stability to render unlikely the early renewal of complications such as those through which we have been passing, and which sprang from an apparently unimportant insurrectionary movement in the Herzegovina, supported by Montenegro and fomented from abroad. The additions proposed to Servia and Montenegro are far more likely to whet than to satisfy their appetite for further acquisitions, and they will be on the look-out for the first favourable opportunity of renewing a policy of aggression which they have just found so advantageous.

Upon the decision on the question of the frontiers to be assigned to the two Principalities, it will to a great extent depend whether a check is to be placed on their ambitious aspirations or whether encouragement is given to them.

There are probably few persons less likely than myself to be accused of a disposition to advocate a spoliation of Turkey for the profit of any other Power, but if three years ago I expressed the opinion that the orderly administration of Bosnia was only possible under the controlling authority of either the Porte or the Austrian Government, your Lordship will not be surprised that I should be still more confirmed in that opinion since the antagonism of the different races of the populations has been embittered by recent occurrences, and since such vast strides have been made by the Slav nationality.

As the Austrian annexation of the province must apparently become necessary for the preservation of order, which the Porte will not be left in a position to maintain, it certainly appears desirable that it should extend far enough to render difficult the union of the two Principalities, which, before it can be effected, must again set the East in a blaze and produce complications in which we may ourselves be involved.

The Russians may probably make objections to such an Austrian extension, but credulity cannot be pushed to the point of believing them desirous of promoting arrangements calculated to render future trouble improbable, or of intending to abandon their constant past policy of watching for and maturing opportunities of extending the Slav preponderance.

Believing, as I conscientiously do, that this question of the frontiers has a far more important bearing than the mere consideration of the greater or lesser amount of territory to be added to the two Principalities, your Lordship will, I trust, allow me frankly to express the conviction that it cannot properly be looked upon as one in which we are only remotely interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 353.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 38. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, June 7, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 37, Political, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the day before yesterday, and again yesterday, a meeting was held in a room adjoining the chief mosque of about sixty Mussulmans, consisting of the notables of the place and of members of the "Esnaf" or trades.

* No. 351.

Several companies of soldiers had been concealed in and about the Konak, in view of a disturbance, but everything passed off quite quietly.

I hear that it was decided to forward a petition, in which the Christians would be invited to take part, direct to the Porte, requesting that measures be adopted for the repression of the many abuses of the local Government. It was also agreed that the Mussulmans would continue to furnish men for the Redif and Mustahfiz if they received some assurance that they would in future be properly fed, clothed, and paid.

The 5th instant was the day fixed for the third class of Redif to assemble at head-quarters; but up to yesterday evening none of the men, I am told, had presented themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 354.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 70. Political.)

Belgrade, June 7, 1878.

My Lord,

AS your Lordship is aware, from Mr. White's despatch No. 186 of the 11th December last, some eighty militiamen, at the outset of the war just ended, refused to obey the order to march to the front and disbanded, some flying to the woods in the vicinity of Krigoutievatz, and others to a village called Topola, in that same neighbourhood, where they intrenched themselves against their pursuers in a house belonging to the Servian Pretender, Kara-George.

Here many of them were killed and several taken prisoners, and the fact of their place of refuge belonging to the rival of the reigning house was immediately taken advantage of for the purpose of demonstrating that a huge conspiracy was in progress against the Prince.

People able to speak with authority on the subject, although not denying the existence of a strong party in favour of the Kara-Georges, are not of opinion that the disbanding of these militiamen can be ascribed to any other cause than their dislike to enter again into action after their first sad experience.

Be this as it may, the Ministers who, it cannot be denied, are governing the country with a high hand, resolved on making an example of the culprits, and instituted a search which resulted in the capture of some thirty or forty men, and the apprehension of three persons of note supposed to have been their instigators, i.e., Colonel Markovitch, a M. Carlovatz, and an ex-Minister, M. Tchoumitch.

All these were tried by court-martial at Arangélovatz, some six or seven weeks ago, and found guilty of treason as conspiring against the head of the State.

Some delay, however, was caused in the execution of the sentence of death upon them, owing, it is said, to the Prince's personal dislike to sign a death warrant, but especially, I believe, to the discontent which made itself loudly heard at Belgrade, where the people insisted that the war being over, the Criminal Courts were alone competent to pronounce judgment, and that the sentence of the court-martial should therefore be reversed.

Last week, however, the farce was played of getting the Courts here to pronounce on the legality and competence of the military Court, and the signature of General Protitch, in command of the Servian troops in Old Servia, having been obtained to the death warrant of some of the offenders, the susceptibilities of both the Prince and his people could thus be taken into account, and yet the lives of Colonel Markovitch (an officer of recognized bravery), and of a dozen men be immediately sacrificed to the interests of the State.

From all I can gather in the maze of conflicting reports which naturally assail one in a half-formed country like this, it appears certain that M. Tchoumitch will remain in prison a year if he can live therein so long, and M. Carlovatz, who had only had the imprudence at a café to declare that he would leave his fortune to the Kara-Georges, will expiate his indiscretion by five years' imprisonment.

As to the other offenders, it may be that they will escape the punishment of death, but it is difficult to ascertain when the personal security of one man considers that sufficient blood has been shed to insure it.

It is impossible, in conclusion, not to point out to your Lordship the distressing

system which forces one-half of the population to act as spies upon the other half, and by terrorizing the whole, paralyzes all activity, and hence the means of improving the still very backward condition of the country generally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 355.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 80. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 8, 1878.*

IN several of his despatches, but especially in a particularly interesting one marked No. 148 of the 10th September last, Mr. White has dwelt on the loss of Austrian influence in Servia and its replacement by Russian preponderance, but the cause of this unfortunate result still remains unexplained.

It is true that the position of Austria at the doors of the Servian capital is one in itself so powerful that it may, in virtue of its strength, have lulled Austrian rulers into indifference as to the movements of this small country, but I know, on the authority of the Austrian Agent here, that he has repeatedly urged his Government without avail to a policy of decision which, in his mind, might have had important results for his country by making it the arbiter of the destinies of Servia at the time, and its protector at the conclusion of peace afterwards.

The case is now so altered that, as your Lordship may gather from my preceding despatches, in order to obtain even a vestige of influence in Servia Austria has been obliged to make direct promises as to the aggrandizement on the eastern and south-eastern frontier as a compensation for Austrian interests safeguarded by the *status quo* in Bosnia instead of dictating her terms, and only shares with Russia in the Congress the protectorate she should alone have enjoyed.

So strange a position can only be the result of a weak policy too long persisted in, but made too evident to those who have benefited by it.

On the other hand, Russia has gained such an ascendancy over the Servian people that M. Ristich can actually build his greatest hope of success at the Congress in the fact that Russia looks upon Servian acquisitions as equal to such by Bulgaria.

Aware that the limits of the Treaty of San Stefano are likely to be cut up in Congress, M. Ristich calculates that Russia will be glad to see such parts as may be taken from Bulgaria given to Servia, and is confident of success in consequence.

But although this is the actual state of things, he would be somewhat venturesome who could predict for it a lasting character, and there are already signs that when the independence of this country is established in its increased limits, the gratitude of all parties to Russia may vanish as rapidly as it has come, and that the saying of M. Ristich to me that, although all Slavs are brothers, still they all like a home of their own, may prove correct not only for Servia but for all the independent Christian States of the South of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 356.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 19. Political.)
My Lord, *Jassy, June 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, a further return regarding the sick in the Russian military hospitals here.

I do not hear of any movements of Russian troops of any moment having taken place near this lately, but it is reported that there is a large force in Russia in the vicinity of Ungheni and Kischinew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

Inclosure in No. 356.

RETURN for the Russian Field Hospital No. 45, stationed at Jassy, from 1st to 11th May, o.s. (13th to 23rd May), 1878.

Nature of Illness.	In Hospital on 1/13 May.	Movements between 1/13 and 11/23 May.				In Hospital on 11/23 May.
		Admitted.	Discharged Well.	Left for other Hospitals.	Died.	
Totals	725	256	247	267	46	421

Nature of diseases (so far as I could ascertain) was as follows:—

Fever	115	68	100	43	..	40
Typhus—						
Intestinal	54	8	10	22	6	26
Spotted	250	93	50	118	22	153
Dysentery	34	2	10	8	9	9
Inflammations	41	Wanting.	Wanting.	Wanting.	Wanting.	44
Rheumatism	6	..	..	..	..	..
Chronic diseases ..	7	..	..	..	..	7
External	29	..	..	..	..	29
Frost-bites	5	..	..	..	..	2
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	5
Syphilis	62	..	..	..	..	52
"Scarlat," &c. (in German)	28	..	..	..	..	20
Various	69	..	..	..	..	24
Wounds	14	..	..	..	..	12
Turkish prisoners ..	10	..	..	..	..	13
	725	725	..	..	..	422 (?)

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM, *Vice-Consul.*

Jassy, June 8, 1878.

No. 357.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 112. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, June 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 36, Political, with which I have received the full powers graciously given me by Her Majesty the Queen under the Great Seal, to carry on and conclude commercial negotiations with this Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 358.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 113. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, June 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that some modification has taken place in the Roumanian Cabinet previous to the departure of two of the Ministers for Berlin.

M. John Bratiano has given up the Department of the Interior for that of Public Works, so as to make room for M. Rosetti, the leader of the party, and, till now, Speaker or President of the Chamber.

M. Aurélian has resigned Public Works, and some provisional arrangements have been made during the absence of the two Delegates; the latter have no interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 359.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 114. Political.) *Bucharest, June 10, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the departure for Berlin, as Delegates to the Congress, of M. Bratiano, the Minister President, and of M. Cogalniccano, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The former of these made a statement to the Chamber on Friday last on the subject of the policy which would guide the Delegates at Berlin, and I have the honour to inclose a translation of a few of the most important passages of that public declaration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 359.

Extract from the Speech of M. Bratiano, President of the Council of Ministers, at the Chambers, $\frac{\text{May 27}}{\text{June 8}}$, in reply to M. D. J. Ghika's question.

(Translation.)

M. GHIKA wishes that we should, in a solemn manner and before the opening of the Congress, show to the world that there is perfect unison between the Government and the Legislative Corps.

We, to-day, cannot say positively that we go to the Congress. We shall go in a similar way as my colleague of Foreign Affairs went last summer, and I went lately. We went to plead our cause before the powerful of the day. We shall thus do now. We shall do our utmost to get access to the European Areopagus, that we may plead our cause, and that we also may be heard.

I, Gentlemen, am convinced—I trust, at least—that "without divine justice descending into the Areopagus," there existing in it only human justice, that it will not decide on our lot without at least hearing us.

As M. Ghika says, our cause is so clear, is so just, that I think even our enemies (though we cannot have enemies, for we have done no harm to anyone), we may have adversaries, opposite interests, but I think that those who have interests opposed to ours will not have an agreeable position in the face of the world; as our cause is so just that our adversaries will have difficulty in sustaining their pretensions.

How can Europe say to us, merely because a friend, an ally of ours, has a fancy for an exchange with us, "Even if you do not like the exchange, we enforce it, and you must accept it?" When we ask for nothing, not even for a heritage to which we perhaps may have a better title than others who do make a claim; when we merely ask that what we do possess should be respected, that what we have known how to keep with our brave arms and heads for centuries, through the spilling of so much blood and in the midst of the most crushing invasions, I do not understand how we can be asked to give up that slice of Bessarabia which we to-day possess.

These, Gentlemen, are our convictions, and I think that every sensible man must so look upon the matter.

No. 360.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 33.) *Tunis, June 13, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that in a conference which General Mustapha Ben Ismael had with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Waddington stated to him, for the information of the Bey, that pursuant to an understanding between Great Britain and France no question will be raised having any reference to Tunis, Egypt, and Syria in the Berlin Congress.

I have had the honour to mention in my despatch No. 13 of the 9th April last that a communication of a similar purport had been made to his Highness by his private agent at Paris, M. Jules de Lesseps, with this difference, however, that he did not state that any accord existed on the subject between Her Majesty's Government and that of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 361.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 500.) *Paris, June 14, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN pursuance of the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of this morning, I have called upon the Persian Grand Vizier, Hoossein Khan, and have asked him to assure the Shah that if the question of the Turko-Persian frontier shall come before the Congress His Majesty's interests will not be forgotten by the British Plenipotentiaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 362.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 20.)

Admiralty, June 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 362.

Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Suda Port, June 19, 1878, 7·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE telegraphed (?) Commander-in-chief as follows:—

"The alarm referred to in telegraph 17th has passed away. 'Foxhound' will be recalled."

No. 363.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 507.) *Therapia, June 19, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 572, I find, on further inquiries, that person who gave me the information about the Island of Marmora must have mistaken it for the town of Malgara.

No. 364.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 598.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 20, 1878.

SALIH PASHA, of whom Consul Sandwith complained in his despatches, has been, on my (representations?), removed from command of the Turkish troops in Crete.

No. 365.

Mr. Wyndham to Mr. Cross.—(Received June 20.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, June 20, 1878.

I HAVE sent following to Berlin:—

"Turkish Minister tells me that he questioned Prime Minister yesterday as to military preparations, who denied them. He also informs me that Turkish Consul telegraphs that four battalions quartered at Chalcis are ordered to be in readiness to move to the frontier. He has recommended the Porte to increase their military force in Thessaly.

"Sent to Constantinople."

No. 366.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Cross.—(Received June 20.)

(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, June 20, 1878.

YOUR telegram(s) respecting Russians at Island of Marmora are contradictory. Do Cabinet wish me to send any orders on the subject or not?

No. 367.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 20, 1878.

IS statement from Gallipoli reported in your telegram No. 560 of the 18th instant confirmed:—

"Russians having buried ammunition near Rhodosto and Chorlu, and made depôt of food and ammunition near Tchekmedjé lines."

No. 368.

Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 15. Consular.)
Tiflis, May 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that war material, ammunition, &c., is still being forwarded in large quantities to the Turkish frontier, in the direction of Akhaltsik and Ozurgèt.

Field works are also being erected at Bielo Gora, on the Poti and Tiflis Railway, west of the dividing range which separates Georgia from Mingrelia, where the line and post road passes through a narrow scarped gorge, in order to prevent an invading force marching upon Tiflis by that route.

The troops at Tiflis and other stations in the interior of Georgia have received orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice.

These preparations are possibly undertaken partly in view of the occupation of Batoum being resisted by the Turkish troops in possession, and hostilities ensuing in consequence with the Ottoman forces at Trebizond, Baiboort, and other positions in Anatolia, who are believed to have been lately reinforced and in good order, and regard

being had to the critical position of the Russian forces now occupying Erzeroum and the adjoining districts south of the Soghanli Dâgh, and indeed of their whole force on that frontier, over 20,000 of whom are attacked by typhus fever, and in a dreadful state from want of necessaries and medical assistance, great numbers of the doctors themselves having died of this disease.

The plague is believed to have broken out at Kars.

In fact the Caucasian army is next to inefficient, and great discouragement prevails.

If war again breaks out it is contemplated to leave the hospitals at Erzeroum under protection of the French Consulate there, and to retire north of the Soghanli.

General Komaroff, who is marching from Artvin on Batoum by the valley of the Tchuruk Sou, has halted and sent for reinforcements.

His Majesty the Shah of Persia arrived here on the 14th, and left again early this morning (16th), *en route* to St. Petersburgh; the town was illuminated and salutes fired.

I have heard that His Majesty the Shah is taking with him to Europe a credit to the amount of 15,000,000 francs, and is not expected to return for some time.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michael, and the Grand Duchess, are not expected to return to Tiflis from St. Petersburgh before the end of this month, or the beginning of June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 369.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 16.)
Poti, May 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM in receipt of Mr. T. V. Lister's despatch No. 1 of the 30th April, 1878, informing me that your Lordship approves of my sending all information of interest direct to the Foreign Office.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival at Poti of the steamers "Odessa" and "Grand Duke Constantine" with provisions and war material, embarking sick and wounded soldiers for Sebastopol and Odessa.

The various temporary hospitals on the shores of the Black Sea are filled with sick and wounded; the most prevalent diseases are typhoid and malarial fevers, which give this neighbourhood an unenviable notoriety. Typhus has now broken out in one of the hospitals, and eighty men out of 300 are at this time suffering from it; several deaths occur daily.

Two small steam torpedo launches are now stationed at the mouth of the River Rhion, where a large number of torpedoes are kept in store.

Great preparations for the defence of Poti are now being made along the coast; in addition to the four batteries erected near the mouths of the Rhion, two other large sand-bag batteries are in course of construction at Abada, five miles north, and Moltagua, five miles south of Poti, whilst numerous rifle-pits, barricades, and small masked batteries have been constructed along the shore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 370.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 392 A.)
Berlin, June 16, 1878.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Consul-General, Baron von Bleichröder, having written me the letter, of which copy is herewith inclosed, I received to-day Mr. Charles Netter and Mr. Vium, the Delegates of the "Alliance Israélite Universelle" of Paris, who asked me to submit the inclosed Memorandum in favour of the Jews of Roumania and Servia to your Lourship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 370.

Baron von Bleichröder to Lord Odo Russell.

Berlin, June 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE furnished a deputation from the Universal Israelite Alliance with a few words of introduction to your Lordship, and should feel extremely obliged if you would be kind enough to name a day and hour at which it would be convenient to your Lordship to grant these gentlemen a few minutes' interview and the opportunity of laying before you the question which has occasioned their presence in Berlin.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) GERSON von BLEICHRÖDER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 370.

The "Alliance Israélite Universelle" to the President and Members of the Berlin Congress.

Paris, le 9 Juin, 1878.

Messieurs,

Il y a seize mois, les délégués des Israélites de l'Allemagne, de l'Amérique, de l'Angleterre, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Belgique, de la France, de la Hollande, de l'Italie et de la Suisse, convoqués à Paris par l'Alliance Israélite Universelle, s'adressaient à la Conférence Européenne réunie à Constantinople et lui demandaient de mettre un terme au régime oppressif que subissent les Israélites en Roumanie et en Serbie et d'assurer à ceux des provinces de la Turquie dont le sort allait être réglé par la Conférence, l'égalité civile et politique réclamée pour tous les non Musulmans.

Vous êtes réunis aujourd'hui pour reprendre l'œuvre de la Conférence de Constantinople, Représentants des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe, vous êtes appelés à établir dans l'Europe Orientale un régime sous lequel les populations de races et de croyances diverses vivront en paix les unes avec les autres. L'Europe ne concevrait pas une paix qui ne fût pas fondée sur le respect des grands principes du droit public, l'égalité des hommes entre eux, la liberté des croyances religieuses. La nécessité d'écrire dans la constitution des pays Orientaux que la croyance religieuse ne peut être pour personne une cause d'infériorité sociale ou politique, est imposée par la loi de la civilisation.

Elle l'est plus encore par le besoin de supprimer le danger de conflits permanents entre des populations de races et de religions diverses et par l'impossibilité d'attendre de leur développement propre le triomphe d'un principe qui est le fruit d'une civilisation à laquelle elles ne sont point encore arrivées. L'Europe seule peut mettre un terme aux persécutions infligées aux Israélites de la Roumanie et de la Serbie depuis un grand nombre d'années et contre lesquelles elle s'est élevée tant de fois en vain; seule elle peut empêcher que la constitution d'Etats nouveaux ne fasse naître la persécution dans des pays où les Israélites ne la connissent pas. Que pour faire cesser ce mal où il existe, et le prévenir ailleurs, il faille une affirmation précise de la volonté des Puissances, l'histoire de la Roumanie et de la Serbie le prouve avec évidence.

La persécution des Israélites en Roumanie et en Serbie a pour point de départ la constitution autonome de ces Etats; l'insuffisance des garanties données par les Traités de 1856 et de 1858 aux droits des Israélites rendit possibles tous les excès commis contre eux. En Serbie, ils furent successivement chassés des campagnes et de la plupart des villes, exclus de tous les emplois et de toutes les fonctions, réduits à la misère. La privation de leurs droits les plus précieux ne les affranchit d'aucune charge; ils subissent, comme tous les Serbes, l'impôt, le service militaire.

Dans la dernière guerre, ils pensèrent triompher de l'iniquité de leur pays envers eux à force de patriotisme; ils combattirent bravement et mêlèrent sur les champs de bataille leur sang à celui de leurs compatriotes. Tant de sacrifices leur valurent quelques paroles bienveillantes du Ministre de l'Intérieur à la grande Skoupschtina de 1877. Ce fut en vain que, lors de la Convention conclu entre la Serbie et la Turquie en 1877, la Turquie réclama pour eux les droits opiniâtrement refusés par la Serbie; leur situation ne changea pas. Sous un tel régime, leur nombre

a depuis longtemps diminué de moitié; ils sont constamment, dans certaines villes, sous la menace d'édits d'expulsion. La raison de cette persécution, le Prince Michel l'a dite un jour:—

"Le seul obstacle à l'émancipation des Israélites en Serbie est, comme les Ministres du Gouvernement Serbe l'ont dit au Consul-Général d'Angleterre, dans la jalousie commerciale des marchands qui composent la représentation du peuple et repoussent les Juifs comme des concurrents vendant de la meilleure marchandise à meilleur marché."

En Roumanie, la situation des Israélites, très nombreux, est encore plus affreuse. Depuis dix ans, ils y sont livrés à la plus cruelle persécution. La presse Européenne a bien des fois répété leurs cris de détresse et de douleur. Presque chaque année l'Europe s'est émue au récit des émeutes, des meurtres, des pillages, des expulsions en masse dont ils étaient victimes. A ces violences est venue se joindre, depuis un certain nombre d'années, la persécution légale, une suite de lois excluant les Juifs de tous les emplois, de toutes les carrières libérales, leur fermant le barreau, le professorat, toutes les fonctions publiques, de nombreuses branches de commerce, cherchant par tous les moyens possibles à les réduire à la misère et à les avilir. En vain les Puissances garantes, appuyées sur l'Article XLVI de la Convention de Paris, qui accordait aux Juifs Roumains les droits civils au moins, réclamaient contre cette politique funeste et barbare. On ne tint aucun compte ni de leurs avis, ni de leurs réclamations.

La Roumanie, sans pitié pour les Israélites, a cependant en eux des sujets voués au travail, utiles au développement du commerce et de l'industrie, capables de s'élever et d'honorer leur pays dans les carrières libérales qui leurs sont obstinément fermées. Ils ont été d'intrépides soldats dans la dernière guerre. Les services rendus par eux dans les ambulances, dans les hôpitaux, la mort d'un grand nombre des leurs sur les champs de bataille ne leur ont pas épargné, dans un arrêt tout récent de la Cour de Justice de Jassy, cette déclaration injurieuse "que les Juifs n'ont aucune patrie et n'appartiennent à aucun Etat."

La Roumanie a même tenté, dans des Traités de Commerce, d'imposer, par des formules équivoques, aux Israélites des pays libres de l'Europe, de l'Allemagne, de l'Angleterre, de la France, de l'Italie le traitement des Israélites de la Roumanie. Elle aime mieux se tenir pour son commerce en dehors du concert Européen et empêcher les relations commerciales des autres nations avec elle que de respecter le droit public de l'Europe au point de vue des personnes, oubliant qu'elle doit son existence nationale à la protection des Etats dont elle repousse les lois et qu'elle attend d'eux la plénitude de son indépendance.

Si telle est la conduite de la Serbie et de la Roumanie à l'égard des Israélites, que n'a-t-on pas à craindre des autres provinces de la Turquie émancipées?

Faut-il rappeler les tristes épisodes d'Eski-Sagra et de Kasanlik pour montrer les dangers qui menacent les Israélites en Bulgarie et dans une partie de la Roumélie? En ce moment même, un grand nombre d'entre eux éloignés de leurs foyers, dépouillés de leurs biens, errent sans abri et sans ressources à Constantinople et à Andrinople. Ils ne peuvent rentrer dans leurs villes natales sans crainte pour leur existence; leurs maisons ont été saccagées ou prises par les Bulgares.

La misère, l'exil, les ont surpris au milieu des efforts heureux qu'ils faisaient, sous la protection du Gouvernement de la Turquie et des Consuls Européens et avec le concours de l'Alliance Israélite, pour s'élever à la civilisation. Ils avaient fondé des écoles dans toutes les villes importantes, à Andrinople, à Salonique, à Routschouck, à Choumla et ailleurs; ces établissements étaient environnées de la faveur publique, ils prospéraient.

Plusieurs de ces écoles sont maintenant formées, il reste à d'autres à peine quelques élèves; la plupart des enfants ont disparu ou sont dispersés avec leurs familles.

Au nom des Israélites de tous les pays, nous nous adressons respectueusement à l'Europe en faveur de nos malheureux coreligionnaires de Bulgarie, de Roumélie, de Serbie et de Roumanie. Nous attendons d'elle la fin de leurs souffrances. Sa protection leur est indispensable dans le présent et dans l'avenir. Que l'Europe fasse entendre sa voix puissante et proclame l'égalité de tous les hommes, le respect de toutes les croyances religieuses partout où ces principes sont méconnus, qu'elle s'en fasse la gardienne vigilante; qu'elle impose à la Serbie et à la Roumanie la garantie des droits civiles et politiques des Israélites comme la condition essentielle de l'existence de tout Etat Européen et de l'indépendance que ces deux Etats réclament. Telle est l'œuvre que le monde attend du Congrès de 1878. Elle répond aux traditions de la politique Européenne, aux vœux des hommes éclairés de toutes les nations; elle donnera la

paix à l'Europe et la prospérité à des pays cruellement éprouvés par la guerre, elle sera féconde en heureux résultats pour toutes les nations, glorieuse pour notre époque et le souvenir de ce Congrès restera ineffaçable dans la mémoire des générations futures.

Agréez, &c.

Pour le Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle siégeant à Paris, et en outre, avec approbation ou procuration :

Du Comité de Berlin, de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle ;
De l'Anglo-Jewish Association de Londres ;
De l'Israelitische Allianz de Vienne ;
Des Comités Allemands, Belges, Danois, Hollandais, Hongrois, Italiens, Suisses, de l'Alliance Universelle ;
Des personnes suivantes ayant assisté, en qualité de Délégués des Israélites de leur pays, à la réunion convoquée à Paris en 1876 en faveur des Israélites de l'Orient :

Délégués des Israélites Allemands—
M. le Dr. Frank, Rabbin à Cologne ;
M. Ad. B. H. Goldsmidt, de Francfort-sur-Maine ;
M. le Dr. Kristeller, Professeur à Berlin ;
M. le Dr. Landsberg, Rabbin à Liegnitz.

Mr. William Seligmann, Délégué des Israélites des Etats Unis d'Amérique.

Délégués des Israélites Belges—
M. E. A. Astruc, Grand Rabbin de Belgique ;
M. Joseph Oppenheim, Président du Consistoire Israélite de Belgique.

Délégués des Israélites Suisses—
M. Dreyfus Neumann, de Bâle ;
M. Emile Dreyfus, de Zurich.

Et en outre, par procuration de—
M. le Dr. S. Neumann, Membre du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite, Président du Comité de l'Alliance Israélite à Berlin ;
M. le Dr. Bamberger, Membre du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite, Rabbin à Kœnigsberg ;
M. le Dr. Feilchenfeld, Membre du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite, Rabbin à Posen ;
M. le Dr. Truenfels, Membre du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite, Rabbin à Stettin ;
M. le Dr. Dünner, Membre du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite, Grand Rabbin à Amsterdam ;
M. Alfred Daniels, Président du Comité Régional Néerlandais de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle à Amsterdam ;
M. le Professeur E. Pontremoli, Membre du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite à Verceil ;
M. Eude Lolli, Grand Rabbin, Membre du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite à Padoue ;
M. Raffaelo Ascoli, au nom du Comité Régional de l'Alliance Israélite à Livourne.

Le Président du Comité Central de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle,
(Signé) AD. CREMIEUX.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
N. LEVER.

Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) ISIDORE LOEB.

No. 371.

Commander Grenfell to Lord Odo Russell.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 21.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June 18, 1878.*

REFERRING to my letter No. 91, 16th May, 1878, stating that a cargo of Whitehead torpedoes had been shipped from Kiel to Russia, I have received further information which establishes the fact that these were the torpedoes ordered by the German Government and specially permitted, as mentioned in Mr. Monson's despatch No. 45, 28th May, 1878, by the Austrian Government to be exported to Germany.

The sale and transfer of these torpedoes to Russia must, therefore, have been sanctioned by the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. GRENFELL.

No. 372.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 602.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 20, 1878.*

INFORMATION from Captain Fife, and other sources, states that great efforts are being made by Russians to put down rising in Rhodope Mountains, and that the Mussulmans are in great want of ammunition and arms, and will probably be conquered, when it is feared they will be massacred.

Turkish villages are still being destroyed by Bulgarians, and the inhabitants massacred.

Porte states that Russians are getting up, by paying for them, accusations against Turkish regular troops of committing atrocities to be sent to Congress which are entirely untrue. They are not justified by any accounts that reach me.

No. 373.

Mr. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June 21, 1878.*

CAPTAIN BUTLER, who had gone across from the Khorassan road to Koom, has returned to Tehran, and I am informed that he intends to remain here possibly for some months.

(Communicated to India.)

No. 374.

Mr. Cross to Mr. Vivian.

(No. 119.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 21, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a letter from the Board of Admiralty, inclosing an extract of a letter addressed to Vice-Admiral Hornby by Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, expressing his sense of the courtesy displayed by the authorities of the Suez Canal, and especially by M. Ducherf, with regard to the passage through the canal of Indian transports; and I have to instruct you to express to M. Ducherf and the other gentlemen holding official positions in connection with the Canal the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for the obliging disposition they have shown on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 375.

Mr. Cross to Count Menabrea.

Foreign Office, June 21, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

IN replying to your Excellency's letter of the 15th April last, inclosing a Pro-Memorit referring to the question of arrears due on account of the Lebanon subsidy from the Imperial Turkish revenue, your Excellency was informed by Lord Salisbury that Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte would be instructed to express the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it was highly desirable that the payments of the subsidy should be duly kept up.

In a despatch lately received from Sir A. H. Layard, his Excellency reports his having brought this subject to the notice of the Turkish Prime Minister, and having urged the importance of the fulfilment of the Porte's engagements, and that he had been assured by his Highness that the matter should receive his immediate attention; and Sir A. H. Layard had subsequently been informed, in answer to his inquiries, that a "Havilé," or order, had been issued on the 5th instant upon the vilayet of Syria for the sum of 2,004,250 piastres, to make up the arrears of the subsidy in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 376.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 48. Political.)

Galatz, June 4, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46, Political, of the 20th ultimo, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that on the 22nd May, nine heavy guns arrived here by rail from the direction of Bucharest, and these, together with twenty others that were parked here, were sent down the river on the 25th May. Only ten heavy guns now remain at Galatz.

The arrivals by the Bender-Galatz railway have only been 700 men of the reserve infantry, who came in on the 1st June; of these 500 went on towards Bucharest, and 200 crossed at Ibraila into the Dobrudscha.

From Ibraila two light field batteries have passed through Galatz towards Reni, and to-day 700 cavalry, apparently of different regiments, have gone through in the same direction.

Mr. Brown reports that two light field batteries have crossed from Matchin, and remain in camp at Ibraila; and that on the 2nd June, about 2,000 cavalry crossed, but they had hardly been in Ibraila a few hours, when they were ordered back again to the Dobrudscha.

I hear that a lighter with torpedoes was sent from Ibraila to Widdin on or about the 22nd May.

To-day a Roumanian steamer, having two lighters in tow, took a quantity of ammunition and some heavy guns belonging to the Roumanians up the river.

Cattle are being shipped from here for San Stefano, and further contracts have lately been made by the Russians for the delivery of 40,000 tons more coal to them in thirty days from this date.

I hear that, in addition to the works at Toultcha and Sulina, Ismail is being fortified by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 377.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 750.)

Therapia, June 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an article from the "Vakit" newspaper, one of the recognized organs of Turkish (Mahommedan) public opinion, with

reference to the policy of founding new territorial arrangements upon ethnological theories, which is not unworthy of your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 377.

Extract from the "Vakit" of June 5, 1878.

UNE des solutions de la question d'Orient, proposées par les journaux, étant celle de diviser d'abord les nationalités qui composent l'unité Ottomane en tant d'administrations autonomes et d'en former ensuite un tout gouvernemental, nous avons démontré dans un précédent article l'impossibilité d'un tel arrangement. Cependant comme les journaux Européens publient, à ce sujet, une serie de documents officiels, il en ressort que le point de vue en question a été aussi discuté dans le monde officiel. Parmi les documents en question il y a aussi quelques dépêches de son Excellence Mr. Layard à l'adresse du Marquis de Salisbury. Nous avons traduit et nous publions dans la page suivante ces dépêches qui mettent en relief le degré d'affection de son Excellence envers les Ottomans et les sentiments de justice qui la distinguent. C'est une nouvelle marque de tendresse paternelle à ajouter à celles que son Excellence nous a prodiguées depuis l'ouverture de la question d'Orient. Dans notre article précédent nous avions exposé nos considérations par rapport à l'impraticabilité de la division en question, et mis en avant la solution qui nous paraît la seule possible, mais comme nous constatons, par les documents publiés, que le but de l'Europe est, soi-disant, d'y donner une solution d'après le point de vue ethnographique, nous croyons à propos de dire aussi quelques mots à cet égard.

L'ethnographie est une science nouvelle pour l'Europe et le but de vouloir l'appliquer chez nous, ainsi que cela est tenté, par des organes tels que le "Courrier d'Orient," n'est évidemment que celui de prouver que les populations qui resteront en dedans des limites par lesquelles le pays des Slaves sera séparé de nous, sont toutes Bulgares. Cependant comme les Grecs et les Musulmans ont soulevé la réclamation qu'ils ne sauraient accepter la Principauté Bulgare, et que l'utopie d'accorder une autonomie séparée à chacune des races qui composent l'Empire Ottoman a pris son essor, il s'ensuivit qu'on a voulu essayer aussi l'application du principe ethnographique non seulement aux Bulgares, mais à toutes les autres nationalités de la Turquie.

Avant de considérer ces questions ethnographiques, nous avouons, non seulement nous mais toute personne bien pensante, qu'on ne saurait facilement écarter du point à savoir si le plan d'octroyer l'autonomie à chacune des nationalités Ottomanes, qui seraient en même temps les parties intégrantes d'une unité gouvernementale, serait, ou non, acceptée dans le monde officiel. Etant donné que pas une de ces nationalités n'est pas exempte de mélange et qu'il serait difficile, si ce n'est pas impossible, de les munir d'autonomies séparées, l'Europe accepterait-elle un tel arrangement aveuglément et sans reflexion avant d'être sûre que les races mêlées ne s'entremangeront pas? Nous ne saurions pas le croire avant de le voir décrété et exécuté. Les nouveaux aspects, que présente dans ce moment-ci la question d'Orient, auraient-ils complètement effacé les anciens qui subsistaient jusqu'à hier? Ne parlait-on pas de la nécessité absolue de l'existance d'une nation qui servirait de barrière solide contre les Slavs, et cette nation n'était-elle pas la nation Ottomane? N'était-ce pas pour cette raison que l'on trouvait nécessaire la conservation de cette nation et que l'on disait même qu'en second lieu venait la nation Grecque qui, cependant, n'était pas considérée assez forte pour suffir à cette tâche? Ces plans sont des plans d'un siècle et de demi-siècle et nous ne voyons pas de nouveau plan qui puisse les supplanter.

Si les nationalités Ottomanes étaient comme celles de l'Amérique, au point culminant de la civilisation et du progrès, il n'y aurait pas lieu de appréhender des guerres civiles permanentes et la dissolution finale, mais il est certain qu'il nous faut des siècles pour atteindre un tel degré de distinction. Il y a encore parmi nous des nationalités dont la langue n'est pas plus vaste que celle des sociétés d'il y a 7,000 ans, c'est-à-dire à peine assez étendue pour exprimer leurs besoins immédiats, et quant à leur écriture et le degré de leur instruction, ils sont tout-à-fait nuls. Que fera-t-on par exemple des nationalités telles que celles des Kurdes, des Yezidis, et des Albanais? Les privera-t-on de l'autonomie que l'on accordera aux autres? Mais ces nationalités sont assez bien armées pour inquiéter leurs voisins et ont assez de valeur pour ne pas se soumettre à la privation qu'on voudrait leur infliger.

Ces considérations ne sont pas sans fondement, à l'instar des utopies Slaves, mais elles méritent de fixer l'attention de l'Europe pour plus d'une raison. Si l'Europe ferme les yeux là-dessus, il est à craindre que, de même que cela arrive actuellement dans le Lazistan et dans les Balcans, le bruit des coups de fusils provenant bientôt de l'Anatolie et de l'Albanie, ne l'oblige à les ouvrir bon gré mal gré. Ici l'auteur de l'article en parlant de la solution sous le point de vue ethnographique, il fait observer que les notions de l'état géographique et statistique du pays sont très imparfaites et que les nationalités de l'Orient ne possèdent pas d'histoire spéciale, qui est cependant la base de la science ethnographique. En présence de tant de lacunes l'arrangement ethnographique est-il possible? D'après le "Vakit" la seule solution possible est de combiner le bien-être des différentes nationalités moyennant les réformes nécessaires à cet effet, avec l'unité actuelle de l'Empire Ottoman.

No. 378.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 372.) *Athens, June 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 128 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have informed Mr. Merlin of your Lordship's approval of the manner in which he and Mr. Blunt have carried out the negotiations intrusted to them in connection with their mission to Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 379.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 373.) *Athens, June 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN accordance with the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 126 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have conveyed to Messrs. Merlin and Blunt your Lordship's approval of their conduct, and of the language employed by them on the occasion of an interview which they had with the insurgent Chiefs in the Agrapha Mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 380.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 753.) *Therapia, June 9, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose substance of a telegram from the inhabitants of the Caza of Kesreyé, signed by the Mussulman Mufti, the Greek Archbishop, and the Jewish Rabbi, protesting against being placed under Bulgarian rule, which they declare would cause the ruin of their respective communities; also of a telegram from the inhabitants of the Province of Uskup, complaining of the cruel treatment to which they are subjected by the Slavs, protesting against annexation to a Slav State, and demanding to remain under Ottoman rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 380.

Petition from Inhabitants of Kiznijé.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)

LES habitants de Kiznijé ayant su que leur pays sera incorporé dans la nouvelle Bulgarie protestent contre cette mesure et déclarent qu'ils ne se soumettraient jamais à l'administration Bulgare, qui ne saurait que causer leur ruine. Ils invoquent la protection de l'Europe en général et de l'Angleterre en particulier pour être délivrés du danger qui les menace.

(Signé) Par le Mufti, MOUSTAFA ASSIM.
l'Archevêque Grec, STARION.
le Rabbi, YOUSOUF.
(Représentant 12,000 habitants du Caza di Kiznijé.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 380.

Petition from Inhabitants of Uskup.

(Traduction.)

ILS se plaignent des cruautés des Slavs; ils protestent contre toute idée d'annexion de leurs pays et déclarent qu'ils veulent rester dans la sujétion Ottomane. Ils prient que leurs vœux soient portés à la connaissance du Gouvernement Anglais.

Le 17 Mai, 1878.

(Suivent de nombreuses signatures.)

No. 381.

Vice-Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 10. Political.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, June 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that since my last report on the progress of events in the neighbourhood of Orlakioï, the balance of success has continued to incline in favour of the insurgents.

The Russian column sent towards Karatepeh, on arriving before that position, on the morning of the 1st instant, found it already occupied by a body of some 2,000 Turks. An engagement ensued, and at the end of five hours, the insurgents, being unsupported by artillery, were forced to give way. They left forty dead and wounded on the field, whilst the loss of the Russians was about fifteen. On the 3rd instant, however, the same body of insurgents, having obtained reinforcements, attacked the Russians again at Karatepeh, and although the latter in their turn were reinforced on the following day, the Turks ultimately took the place.

On the 6th instant, the insurgents also occupied Brakovian (between Karatepeh and Orlakioï) which had meanwhile been abandoned by its Bulgarian inhabitants.

As regards the fate of Plavon, the recovery of which place was the object of the Russian movement above referred to, the following particulars have been received. Plavon, like Brakovian, had been evacuated by its (Greek) population on the approach of the insurgents. The number of persons who remained behind and were massacred is now ascertained to have been eighteen. The brigand chief Petko was stated in my previous report to be still holding the village church against the insurgents. Although wounded, he eventually succeeded in cutting his way through them with a handful of followers, and arrived at Adrianople on the 5th instant. He is now engaged, with the sanction of the military authorities, in raising a body of volunteers, wherewith to renew the fight.

After pillaging Plavon, the insurgents evacuated it, but persons just arrived from Orlakioï, announce that the position was again occupied by them yesterday; and disquieting accounts of their aggressive attitude keep coming in from all sides. The Christian villagers in those parts are understood to be irritated at the supineness of the Russian military authorities in these emergencies, and the inadequacy of the measures taken for their protection; and the inhabitants of the threatened places are imploring to be told whether they may expect efficient military aid, or must seek safety by abandoning their homes. Whether justly or otherwise, the Russians are

very generally believed to be disgusted with the ill-success of their endeavours to reduce an enemy whom they at the same time affect to despise, and it is concluded that, recognizing at last the hopelessness of obtaining any marked advantage without incurring disproportionate sacrifices, they would gladly leave the insurgents alone if the insurgents would only consent to do the same by them. But this, it is evident, the mountaineers are not disposed to do; and the latest accounts received this afternoon represent them to be in occupation of the following places which were held by the Russians at the commencement of the late general attack on the 28th and 29th ultimo—Mangouf, Brioren, Brakovian, Karatepeh, and Plavou.

All reports as to the late fighting further to the north-west agree in representing the Russian arms to have been unsuccessful in that direction also.

Thus, after two months' hostilities, no material impression has been made at any point on the insurgent lines. Now, as at the outset, those lines may be roughly said to range within a distance of twenty-five miles from Tatar-Bazardjik, Philippopolis, and Adrianople respectively.

It is, moreover, reported from the south, that the insurgents have broken new ground, by taking and destroying several villages towards Demotica. Although the particulars have not yet transpired, Russian accounts admit that it has been found necessary to detach a column of 1,500 men in that direction, out of a force of 6,000, which has come within the last day or two from Tchorlu. The remainder of that force has, it is said, been sent to Ortakioï and other menaced points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 382.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 755. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1878.*

IN my telegram No. 383 of the 3rd instant, I informed your Lordship that the German Ambassador had stated to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that he had in his pocket the invitation to the Porte to the Congress, but that, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, he was not to deliver it until both Shumla and Varna were given over to Russia. I received this statement from Safvet Pasha himself, immediately after his Excellency had seen Prince Reuss. The Prince told me last night that he had learnt from Berlin the substance of my telegram, which had been communicated to the German Government, and that he desired to explain to me that Safvet Pasha must have entirely misunderstood him. What he had stated to his Highness was, that he had in his pocket the invitation, and that he trusted that England and Russia would come to an agreement, so that the Congress might meet. Prince Reuss added that, although he had received the invitation for the Porte, the order to deliver it had not at that moment reached him. It did so late in the evening, and he sent it to Safvet Pasha about 10 P.M.

If Prince Labanoff had, as I have been assured, informed the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the same day, that unless Varna and Shumla were given up the Congress would not meet, I am not surprised that Safvet Pasha should have misunderstood Prince Reuss. I cannot doubt that when I saw him he was under the impression that the communication made to him by the Prince was in the nature of a threat.

I told Prince Reuss that I would inform your Lordship of the explanation that he had been good enough to give to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 383.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 756.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me, and forwarded through Consul Reade, by Euvery Bey, the Director of Quarantine at the Port of Smyrna, complaining of the destruction of his property by Bulgarians and Russians, and asking for the protection of Her Majesty's Government, and for my assistance in recovering it.

I have requested Mr. Reade to inform Euvery Bey that, although I greatly regret the losses which he has experienced, amounting, he states in the account he has sent me, to nearly 800,000 piastres, I cannot interfere on his behalf, as he is a Turkish subject, but that I will transmit his letter to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 383.

Euvery Bey to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Smyrne, le 6 Juin, 1878.*

QUINZE jours après la prise d'Andrinople par les Russes, une partie de leur armée est allée par voie de Keshan à Evrisha, aux environs de Gallipoli, une autre partie, passant par plusieurs villes, est entrée à Rodosto.

Deux semaines plus tard et après l'installation de ces deux corps d'armée à Rodosto et à Malgara, soit après la conclusion de l'armistice, tous les villages de ces deux districts ont été saccagés par des Bulgares et autres pillards.

Ma ferme, située aux environs de Malgara "Calaigi Tchillik," eut le même sort. Aussitôt connu le malheur, je me suis rendu à Rodosto et j'ai formulé mes plaintes aux autorités Russes, plaintes qui sont restés sans résultat.

Personne ne s'attendait à ce pillage. Toute la population de ces districts s'est fié à la justice Russe, et personne n'émigra. Cependant les Bulgares et les Cosaques ne se sont pas fait scrupule de s'emparer de nos bestiaux, nos denrées, &c., et de détruire le reste de nos propriétés.

Le manque de bestiaux nous empêchera de faire rentrer les récoltes de cette année; dans cette émergence plusieurs propriétaires ont déjà cédé la moitié à des spéculateurs.

La situation est encore plus aggravée puisque les Russes empêchent formellement à qui que ce soit de mettre la main sur les produits de cette année, et qui sont encore en terre.

La note ci-jointe donnera à votre Excellence une idée des pertes et de la ruine qu'on m'a causées.

Dans l'impossibilité d'avoir aide et protection ailleurs, suivant l'exemple des autres propriétaires, et confiant dans la puissante protection et justice du Gouvernement Anglais, j'ose recourir à votre Excellence, et demander son puissant appui afin de pouvoir recupérer ce que j'ai si injustement perdu.

Je prie, &c.
(Signé) EUVERY,
Directeur de la Quarantaine à Smyrne.

No. 384.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 757. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the draft of the note which the Porte, at the instigation of the Austrian Ambassador, proposes to address to his Excellency, inviting the entry into Bosnia of Austrian troops, and also a copy of the same draft as amended by Count Zichy, and which has been submitted by Safvet Pasha to the Council of Ministers. The Porte had further proposed to the Austro-Hungarian

Government a Military Convention on this subject, to which Count Andrassy has expressed a very decided objection. Count Zichy is endeavouring to prevail upon the Porte to abandon its intention in this respect.

In pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I have strongly advised Safvet Pasha to come to an amicable arrangement with the Austrian Government in this matter, and I have reason to hope that the note, as altered by Count Zichy, will be accepted by the Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 384.

Draft of Note to Count Zichy.

LES communications que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique a faites à la Sublime Porte, ainsi que les informations qui lui sont directement parvenues, ne permettent plus de douter que les tendances envahissantes de la Serbie et du Monténégro s'accentuent de plus en plus et créent un danger qui menace aussi bien les provinces avoisinantes de l'Empire Ottoman que les intérêts des parties limitrophes de la Monarchie Austro-Hongroise.

L'extension que ces deux Principautés donnent à leurs armements et l'attitude qu'elles ont prises ont d'ailleurs pour effet d'encourager les insurgés de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et de menacer de ce côté aussi la sécurité de ces provinces, quand pourtant il est du plus grand intérêt, tant pour la Puissance territoriale que pour la province voisine, d'y voir rétablis le plus tôt possible l'ordre et la tranquillité.

Obligé de consacrer des forces considérables à la défense de points de territoire d'une importance capitale le Gouvernement Ottoman n'en a pas moins fait tout ce qui dépendait de lui pour empêcher les empiétements des deux Principautés et pour sauvegarder dans la mesure du possible la sécurité des populations de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, et les intérêts qui y sont engagés.

Cependant la Sublime Porte, dans la situation que les événements lui ont faites, doit attacher le plus grand prix à une co-opération active du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois à l'effet de mettre à l'abri de toute atteinte les droits de souveraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan dans les provinces de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine. Connaissant les sentiments d'amitié et de bon voisinage dont le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois est animé envers elle et se basant sur la solidarité des intérêts des deux Etats la Sublime Porte a la conviction de pouvoir compter sur la sincérité du concours qu'elle trouverait auprès de lui.

Dans cet ordre d'idées l'entrée des troupes Austro-Hongroises en Bosnie et en Herzégovine pour y occuper provisoirement certains points stratégiques se présentant comme le moyen le plus efficace de parer aux dangers d'une situation précaire, la Sublime Porte pense qu'il appartient aux deux Gouvernements de s'entendre sur l'opportunité de préciser par des arrangements spéciaux la mode d'action qui serait jugé le plus convenable et qui s'adapterait le mieux aux désirs des deux Etats demeurant expressément entendu que les mesures à adopter ne pourront préjudicier en rien aux droits de souveraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 384.

Draft of Note as amended by Count Zichy.

LES informations parvenues directement à la Sublime Porte ne permettent plus de douter que les tendances envahissantes de la Serbie et du Monténégro s'accentuent de plus en plus, et créent un danger qui menace aussi bien les provinces avoisinantes de l'Empire Ottoman que les intérêts des parties limitrophes de la Monarchie Austro-Hongroise.

L'extension que ces deux Principautés donnent à leurs armements et l'attitude qu'elles ont prises ont d'ailleurs pour effet d'encourager les insurgés de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et de menacer de ce côté aussi la sécurité de ces provinces quand pourtant il est du plus grand intérêt, tant pour la Puissance territoriale que pour la Puissance voisine, d'y voir rétablis le plutôt possible l'ordre et la tranquillité.

Obligé de consacrer des forces considérables à la défense des points du territoire

d'une importance capitale, le Gouvernement Ottoman n'en a pas moins fait tout ce qui dépendait de lui pour empêcher les empiétements des deux Principautés et pour sauvegarder dans la mesure du possible la sécurité des populations de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et les intérêts qui y sont engagés.

Cependant la Sublime Porte, dans la situation que les événements lui ont faite, doit attacher le plus grand prix à une co-opération active du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois à l'effet d'obtenir la pacification définitive de ces provinces.

Dans cet ordre d'idées l'entrée des troupes Austro-Hongroises en Bosnie et en Herzégovine, pour y occuper provisoirement certains points stratégiques, se présentant comme le moyen le plus efficace de parer aux dangers d'une situation précaire, la Sublime Porte pense qu'il appartiendrait, le cas échéant, aux commandants militaires et aux autorités civiles de s'entendre entre eux sur la mode d'action qui serait jugée la plus convenable et qui s'adopterait le mieux aux désirs des deux Etats, demeurant expressément entendu que les mesures à adopter ne pourraient préjudicier à rien aux droits de souveraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

No. 385.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 759.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert respecting the Mussulman rising in the Rhodope Mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 385.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, June 7, 1876.*

DURING the past week continual fighting appears to have been going on in the Rhodope Mountains between the Russians and the insurgents, with what results is as yet unknown.

Nearly the whole garrison of Philippopolis, including part of the Bulgarian Legion, has been sent into the insurgent country, together with reinforcements, amounting to 500 or 600 men, who have come up from Adrianople in the course of the last eight days.

At the beginning of the week it was announced by the Russians that they had subdued the insurgents and made their way to Drama, in Macedonia; but since then further fighting has undoubtedly taken place in the neighbourhood of Dewlen and the Tchepina Dagh, about Borowo, south of Stanimak, and in the Akhir-Tchelebi district.

The most exaggerated accounts—side by side with versions which reduce these combats to the most insignificant proportions—continue, as usual, to receive currency.

One of my colleagues informed me this afternoon that close upon 500 Russian wounded were brought into Philippopolis to-day and yesterday, but I have been unable to discover any one else who has heard anything of this event, and I can only say that, if such numbers of wounded as are sometimes spoken of are really brought down, the Russians show consummate art in concealing them from the eyes of the public.

It is certain, however, that a large Russian force—perhaps 10,000 or 12,000 men—is now operating against the insurgents in the different hostile districts. Nearly all the troops in Sofia have, I learn, been removed to Kustendil, and General Stalibin, who commands all the troops from Orchanié to Hasskeui, left Philippopolis four days ago to direct personally the operations in that locality (Kustendil).

It is reported that the Russo-Bulgarian Commission for the enrolment of conscripts was fired at the other day near Presnitza, between Sofia and Pirot, by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 386.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 760.)
Therapia, June 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto respecting further outrages committed by the Christians on the Mussulmans, and forwarding a map of the neighbourhood of Rodosto.

Translations of the documents mentioned by M. Dussi will be forwarded to your Lordship by another opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 386.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Mr. Layard.

Rodosto, le 7 Juin, 1878.

Excellence,

DEPUIS ma dernière les réfugiés n'ont pas discontinué de nous arriver. Il paraît que tout ce qu'il y a de Musulmans dans la Thrace va se porter ici pour émigrer en Asie. D'après mes renseignements les Russes ne feraient qu'aider ce mouvement d'émigration, vu qu'ils n'ont rien fait pour empêcher les Chrétiens de continuer leurs méfaits et même s'il faut en croire les apparences, ils ne seraient pas étrangers dans le soulèvement des Chrétiens.

A Saviar il y a eu 3 personnes tuées et 14 blessées. Je ne puis vous citer les noms des villages brûlés, mais je puis vous dire que le nombre est conséquent. Les habitants du village Mustegel, du Caza de Charkeuy, environs 200 habitants, qui se réfugiaient à Gallipoli, ont été rencontrés par une bande de Chrétiens.

Deux personnes seules ont pu s'échapper; tout le reste a été impitoyablement massacré. Sous ce pli j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre deux adresses remises à ce Vice-Consulat par les villageois des Cazas de Malgara et Hairabol, demandant aide et protection.

Beaucoup d'infanterie avec quelque peu d'artillerie a passé cette semaine se dirigeant sur Malgara et de là à Kéchan. On m'informe qu'un corps d'artillerie est descendu à Charkeuy. Incluse vous trouverez une vue, vue de la ville de Rodosto fortifiée. Jusqu'à présent deux redoutes seules ont été élevées à l'est et à l'ouest.

Pour le moment celle de l'est a 9 canons, celle de l'ouest 6; mais elles ont assez d'emplacement pour en prendre 15 chaque. Par des points rouges et barres j'ai indiqué les points les plus culminants et sur lesquels, il y a toute probabilité, on élevera de redoutes.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 387.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 702.)
Therapia, June 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from the "Turquie," containing translations of petitions addressed to the Porte by the inhabitants of various districts of Macedonia and Thrace, protesting against their incorporation into the new Province of Bulgaria, and also against the cruel treatment to which they are subjected by the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 387.

Extract from "La Turquie" of June 10, 1878.

PROTESTATIONS.—LA pétition suivante, portant un millier de signatures, a été présentée à la Sublime Porte par les habitants Musulmans et Chrétiens de plusieurs districts du Vilayet de Monastir, à la date du 20 Avril (v.s.), 1878:—

"Nous avons lu dans les journaux que, d'après le Traité de Paix de San Stefano, plusieurs de nos districts seront compris dans la nouvelle Bulgarie.

"Cet événement extraordinaire a jeté une immense agitation parmi tous les habitants de notre province, qui ne voient aucun motif plausible pour cette annexion forcée.

"Les livres d'histoire attestent que très peu de Bulgares sont venus s'établir dans le Vilayet de Monastir, où ils sont très clairsemés dans la campagne, mais ils ne sont pas les originaires du pays.

"La plupart d'entre eux se trouvent sous la juridiction spirituelle du Patriarche Œcuménique Grec. Ceux qui essaient de Bulgariser notre province sont quelques écervelés et intrigants, vendus aux Comités Slaves.

"Quant aux habitants que la Russie considère comme des Bulgares, ils ne sont qu'un quart de toute la population originairement établie, dont les trois tiers sont des Musulmans, Grecs, et Israélites. Il serait donc tout-à-fait contraire au droit des gens, à la justice, et à l'équité d'annexer nos districts à la nouvelle Bulgarie.

"Ce serait là annuler par violence nos droits nationaux et inaliénables au profit d'une infime minorité Bulgare, séduite par l'intrigue. Plutôt que de nous soumettre à une pareille injustice, et de voir notre patrie sacrée et originaire entre les mains des étrangers et des Bulgares sauvages, nous préférons périr avec nos familles en défendant notre honneur national, ce qui serait plus glorieux pour nous et serait gravé dans les annales de l'histoire pour l'édification de la postérité.

"S'il est vrai que les limites de la nouvelle Bulgarie doivent s'étendre jusqu'à nos districts, nous protestons dès aujourd'hui contre une pareille énormité.

"Nous prions le Gouvernement Impérial de ne pas laisser nous soumettre aux ingrats qui ont trahi leur pays, et d'épargner à la Roumélie l'effusion du sang qui doit avoir lieu par suite d'une annexion contraire à la civilisation, à l'humanité, et à la justice."

(Suivent un millier de signatures.)

Pétition adressée à la Sublime Porte par les Habitants Musulmans de la Ville de Kéchan, située dans la zone neutre du côté de Gallipoli.

Nous soussignés, habitants de Kéchan, réfugiés à Gallipoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer ce qui suit: C'est pour la deuxième fois que quelques Chrétiens, sous prétexte de chercher des armes, s'introduisent dans les maisons Musulmanes.

Il y a quelques jours une centaine des notables Musulmans furent enchaînés, emprisonnés, et persécutés, parce qu'on avait trouvé chez eux quelques vieux pistolets ou bien quelques objets de coutellerie.

Par suite des pillages précédents il ne restait plus aux Musulmans que peu de bestiaux, qui leur ont été aussi enlevés.

Un chamelier, nommé Mehmed, qui se rendait avec ses chameaux, de l'échelle de Ibridja à Kéchan, fut attaqué et tué par trois Chrétiens.

Ces crimes sont commis sous les yeux des autorités militaires Russes, qui ne prennent aucune mesure sérieuse pour réprimer ces actes de brigandage et n'écoutent aucune plainte qu'on leur fait à ce sujet; le sort de nos compatriotes à Kéchan est devenu insupportable, et nous prions le Gouvernement Impérial de les délivrer de cette persécution, en leur donnant asile à Gallipoli.

Kéchan, le 20 Mai (v.s.), 1878.

Résumé d'une Pétition présentée au Grand Vézirat par les Délégués de la Population Musulmane du District de Démotika.

Nous, habitants du Caza de Démotika, sommes exposés aux plus dures vexations et nous sommes à la merci des Bulgares et des Cosaques:—

Un détachement de troupes Russes a non-seulement pillé les meubles laissés par

nos fugitifs, mais aussi a commencé à étrangler les habitants paisibles et à violer leurs femmes et leurs filles.

Nous avions cru que cet état de choses ne serait que passager et que la rage de nos persécuteurs finirait par s'apaiser, mais loin de là, notre situation va en empirant chaque jour davantage.

Les cultivateurs n'osent plus se rendre dans leurs champs et la frayeur les retient dans leurs maisons où ils ne sont pas moins molestés que le reste des habitants. Dernièrement, un convoi de voitures, qui s'était rendu en corvée à Andrinople, a été attaqué à son retour par les Bulgares.

Les bœufs et les voitures ont été enlevés, les voituriers maltraités, et l'un d'eux a été tué.

A Vakt Yfchi, vingt-trois villages, et dans la vallée de Kizil Déli, vingt-trois autres villages, ont été pillés et saccagés; les habitants ont été massacrés.

Tous ceux qui ont pu échapper se sont réfugiés dans les montagnes; dans l'un de ces villages, les Russes et les Bulgares avaient marché avec des canons.

Dans un pareil état de choses nous ne pouvons nous rendre aux champs; nous ne pouvons pas cultiver nos terres.

Nous supplions le Gouvernement de jeter sur nos souffrances un regard de pitié et de prendre les mesures qu'il croira convenables pour nous rendre l'existence possible.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Les habitants du district de Férédjik avaient présenté une pétition pour se plaindre des atrocités commises par la bande d'un certain chef de brigands Bulgares, nommé Tepko.

Une Commission d'Enquête fut formé à Dédéaghatch, mais les autorités militaires Russes n'ont pris aucune mesure sérieuse pour protéger la vie, les biens et l'honneur des habitants Musulmans.

Pétition des Maires du District de Carlova, en date du 17 Djemazul-evël.

Nous avons l'honneur d'exposer ce qui suit:—

Le nommé Suleyman Tchaouch, du village de Jukliler, district de Carlova, dans la Province de Choumla, a été assassiné par des brigands Bulgares dans le défilé de Eski-Stamboulouk, pendant qu'il se rendait de Choumla à son village.

Ces brigands ont aussi tué les personnes suivantes, qui se trouvaient en compagnie du susdit Suleyman Tchaouch: Mehmed, fils d'Ahmed Effendi, d'Osman-Bazar; Aïché, fille du susdit Ahmed Effendi; un enfant de cinq ans de la susdite Aïché; la femme du nommé Hassan, autre fils d'Ahmed Effendi; Fatma, fille du susdit; une petite fille du susdit. En tout, sept personnes ont été assassinées dans l'endroit précité.

Les Maires du village de Kestaniki, près de notre canton, ont été tués par les Bulgares.

Rustem Agha, du village de Dirin, a été tué par les Bulgares.

Deux cadavres de Musulmans ont été découverts dans les Balkans, entre les villages de Touchitza et de Dragoï.

Le nombre de tous ces Musulmans tués ou massacrés s'élève à onze personnes.

Les habitants Musulmans n'osent plus aller travailler dans leurs champs et dans la forêt, et ne pouvant plus supporter toutes ces atrocités, ont recours à la justice et à la bienveillance paternelle du Gouvernement Impérial et demandent aide et protection pour leurs vies, aussi bien que pour celles de leurs familles et de leurs enfants innocents.

No. 388.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 763.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade respecting Russian military movements at Rustchuk and Varna.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 388.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir; *Varna, June 5, 1878.*

I HASTEN to report to your Excellency that I have just received a letter from a very reliable source at Rustchuk, informing me of the very extensive arrivals there from Russia of ammunition of war. The quantities of powder and projectiles that have been landed at Rustchuk during the past ten days are said to be very great.

My informant also tells me that a very large depôt of artillery had been formed at Giurgevo, in Roumania, opposite Rustchuk, which, in case of war, is to furnish the positions taken up by the Russians in Bulgaria. He saw siege guns of 25 centim. calibre; most of the others were of 18 and 15 centim.

The Russian General Guera at Rustchuk has informed the direction of this railway that he has received orders to at once repair the line from Rustchuk to 8 kilom. this side of Rasgrad. This, I think, is the point on the line where the Silistria chaussée passes, and to which, I believe, Colonel Lennox attached some importance. Perhaps the subject may be found in one of his reports, or Lieutenant Cherneside may remember it.

A gentleman from Rustchuk arrived here last night, and tells me that at Rasgrad he saw all the principal Russian officers there, and who, he says, appeared packed up and ready for the occupation of Shumla. He also heard them say that they were confident of being able to carry it by a *coup-de-main*, and were on the tip-toe of expectation of orders for this object.

This appears to explain what I said in my No. 42 of the 1st instant, viz., that Fazli Pasha, of Shumla, complains of the reduction of his force by orders from Constantinople.

My informant states that he heard all these Russian officers attach immense importance to their occupation of Shumla.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 389.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 764.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 379 of the 19th March, respecting the refusal of the Russian authorities in Bulgaria to recognize foreign Consular Agents, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, giving an account of an interview between the Consular body at Philippopolis and Prince Doudoukoff Korsakoff, the newly-appointed Governor of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 389.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, shortly after the arrival of Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, I, in conjunction with my colleagues, solicited the honour of calling upon his Excellency. The Imperial Commissioner fixed Wednesday, the 5th instant, for the interview, which, it was distinctly understood, was to be private and unofficial.

Immediately after the interview we wrote out a summary of the conversation which took place between the Prince and ourselves, and I beg to forward a copy of it for your Excellency's information.

After the language which it pleased the Imperial Commissioner to use towards us collectively, we cannot but regret the step which, with a desire to fulfil an almost obligatory act of courtesy, we took in calling upon his Excellency.

Identical copies of the account of our interview are being forwarded by my Austrian, French, and Greek colleagues to their respective Embassies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 389.

Account of Interview between Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff and the Consular Body at Philippopoli, June 4, 1878.

APRES présentation des Agents Consulaires par M. Schepelioff, Gouverneur-Civil, le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff prononce les paroles suivantes:—

"Messieurs, vous n'êtes pas accrédités auprès de moi, je ne vous considère, et ne vous reçois, que comme tous autres particuliers."

M. Boysset.—Nous n'avons demandé à être reçus par votre Excellence que comme particuliers.

Le Prince.—La position difficile et équivoque dans laquelle vous vous trouvez vous impose la plus grande réserve. Cette réserve n'a pas toujours été observée. Ainsi vous (en s'adressant à M. Matala) vous avez favorisé l'excitation des Grecs. Je comprends que les Grecs, plus intelligents et plus instruits que les Bulgares, subissent à contre-cœur la suprématie de ces derniers. Ils n'en doivent pas moins se soumettre à l'ordre de choses établi.

Enfin ceci est mon affaire, et j'aviserai.

M. Matalas.—Vous n'êtes ici que depuis deux jours et vous avez été mal renseigné. Je me suis si peu occupé d'exciter les Grecs contre les Bulgares que j'avais, il y a deux mois, sollicité un congé, et que, ce congé obtenu, je ne suis resté à Philippopolis que retenu par mes affaires commerciales.

Le Prince.—Des articles ont été envoyés aux journaux de Constantinople. Ils renferment quelques vérités et de nombreux mensonges. Je fonderai un journal à Philippopolis. Je ferai des enquêtes sur tous les faits qu'on reproche aux Russes et aux Bulgares. Si les accusations sont fondées, je punirai les coupables. Dans le cas contraire je démentirai les calomniateurs par l'organe de ce journal.

Entre toutes les colonies, la colonie Grecque seule se refuse à loger les troupes. En temps de guerre les habitants sont toujours soumis à de semblables obligations.

M. Matalas.—Si votre Excellence veut bien prendre des renseignements, elle pourra facilement se convaincre qu'il n'y a pas une seule maison Grecque à Philippopolis où ne se trouvent logés des officiers Russes. S'il est vrai qu'en temps de guerre les habitants doivent le logement aux troupes envahissantes, je crois qu'en temps de paix le droit international, qui sauvegarde les intérêts des nationaux étrangers, ne permet pas d'expulser les habitants de leurs propres maisons pour y loger des militaires.

Le Prince.—Tout dernièrement encore un Grec, soi-disant sujet étranger, s'est refusé à fournir les pièces nécessaires à l'installation d'un bureau topographique dans sa maison.

M. Matalas.—Ce n'est pas un Grec; c'est un sujet de mon collègue d'Autriche.

Le Prince.—Il y a nombre de Grecs qui se parent de nationalités qui ne leur appartiennent pas.

M. d'Adelburg.—Je puis vous assurer, mon Prince, que M. Coyoumdjoglou est bien protégé Allemand et que, dans l'affaire dont il s'agit, on a voulu prendre de force une chambre où se trouvait une jeune fille malade du typhus, et hors d'état d'être transportée, sans danger, dans un autre local.

Le Prince.—Ce ne peu être vrai.

M. d'Adelburg.—J'en ai reçu l'assurance de la bouche même de M. Coyoumdjoglou.

Le Prince.—Dans toute guerre on commet des excès. Ceux qui viendraient à se produire maintenant je les punirai. Mais on exagère facilement. Les Agents Consulaires (en se tournant du côté de Mr. Calvert) écrivent souvent pour les besoins de la cause.

Mr. Calvert.—Si c'est à moi que vous vous adressez, je puis vous dire que je n'écris rien que d'exact, rien que je ne puisse prouver. D'ailleurs les Gouvernements ont intérêt à être correctement renseignés, et ils désavoueraient des Agents qui leur enverraient des informations inexactes.

Le Prince.—Je ne vous accuse pas; je parle en général.

M. Boysset.—Les Agents honnêtes n'écrivent que la vérité et n'informent leurs Gouvernements que des faits dont ils ont pu constater l'exactitude.

Le Prince.—Je n'accuse pas les Consuls. Je crois que les Gouvernements provoquent des rapports suivant les exigences de leur politique.

Dans un mois nous aurons, je l'espère, une solution. Vous serez accrédités auprès de moi. Vous pourrez alors (s'adressant à Mr. Calvert) faire vos articles.

Pour en revenir aux Grecs, l'animosité qu'ils témoignent aux Bulgares ne peut que leur être nuisible.

M. Matalas.—Si une telle animosité existe, elle ne provient que des persécutions dont les Grecs sont victimes, persécutions dont je puis vous donner des preuves à l'instant.

Le Prince.—Quand vous serez accrédité auprès de moi et seulement alors, vous aurez le droit de me parler de ces persécutions. Aujourd'hui si quelqu'un se prétend persécuté, qu'il s'adresse directement à moi.

Messieurs, j'ai bien l'honneur de vous saluer.

No. 390.

Mr Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 375.)

My Lord, *Athens, June* 12, 1878.

M. CHARLES DE HEIDENSTAM, who has been for many years Chargé d'Affaires in Greece for Sweden and Norway, died last week at an advanced age.

His funeral, which took place at Athens, was attended by the Maréchal de la Cour, by the President of the Council of Ministers, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and by most of the Members of the Diplomatic Body.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 391.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 376.)

My Lord, *Athens, June* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Count Maffei, Italian Minister to this Court, has left Athens for Rome, having been appointed Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

I have also the honour to report that Baron de Bülow, who has been Acting Chargé d'Affaires for some time for Germany, has been succeeded in that capacity by Count de Goltz, a Secretary of the German Embassy at Constantinople, M. de Bülow having been summoned to Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 392.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 376.)
Athens, June 13, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 363, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Syngros had informed me that he was about to try and negotiate a loan for the Greek Government for about 30,000,000 of drachmas (1,071,428*l.*).

I have now the honour to report that I have been informed that propositions have been made to the Greek Government by Paris bankers, through the agency of Messrs. Serpieri and Ricciaki, for a new loan to the State of 80,000,000 of drachmas (about 2,856,000*l.*) nominal, which will be issued at 65 per cent., bearing interest at 5½ per cent. per annum on the nominal capital, and 1 per cent. sinking fund, which rate is equal to about 8½ per cent. interest on the real capital. A commission of 2½ per cent. is to be paid the contractor on the nominal value of the loan; the interest and sinking fund of this new loan to be secured by the stamp-tax.

I am also informed that it is proposed to repay the National and Ionian Banks the money borrowed from those establishments during the "cours forcé" (about 37,000,000 of drachmas) out of the proceeds of this loan; and, with a view of facilitating its issue, an arrangement will be proposed to the bondholders of the old Greek Loans of 1824-25, who, it is hoped, will accept from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 of drachmas (1,440,000*l.* to 1,800,000*l.*) in recognition of their claims for capital and arrears of interest, now amounting, I believe, to between 8,000,000*l.* and 9,000,000*l.* sterling; new bonds would then be given to them for the above amount, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, and 1 per cent. sinking fund.

This offer has been, I am told, approved by a Cabinet Council, and a draft of a Bill is said to be in course of preparation for presentation to the Chamber when it meets.

My informant stated to me that he thought M. Syngros' endeavours had been unsuccessful, and that his project was in lieu of that gentleman's proposals.

I have also been informed that 1,500,000 fr. are being coined in copper and billon (small coin) in France for the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 393.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 770.)
Therapia, June 14, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 760 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose translations of the petitions from the inhabitants of Rodosto, Hairabol, and Malgara, which were forwarded by Mr. Vice-Consul Dussi in his despatch of the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 393.

Petition from Rodosto, Hairabol, and Malgara.

(Traduction.)

LES Soussignés, qui sont les habitants de tous les villages de Rodosto, de Hirebol, et de Malgara, exposent que, depuis l'arrivée des Russes, les Chrétiens du pays n'avaient cessé de leur enlever leurs bestiaux; mais ils en restaient là, tandis que depuis trois jours ils se mirent à les attaquer violemment, à piller leurs propriétés, et à les massacrer. Ils ajoutent que deux de leurs villages sont étroitement assiégés depuis trois jours, et que les Chrétiens ont mis le feu dans quinze villages, dont les habitants ont dû s'enfuir et se réunir dans un seul village où ils continueraient à être pillés.

Ils concluent en priant qu'on les délivre des mains des Chrétiens, et qu'on protége leurs vies et leurs propriétés.

Le $\frac{14 \text{ Mai}}{4 \text{ Juin}}$ 1878.

(Suivent les signatures et sceaux des différents villages.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 393.

Petition from the Inhabitants of Malgara.

(Traduction ou résumé.)

ILS disent qu'ils lui envoient en secret deux hommes chargés de lui remettre leur requête, et de lui expliquer leurs souffrances; que les habitants étaient prêts à émigrer, lorsqu'ils ont su que des délégués étaient envoyés pour ramener par leurs conseils la tranquillité dans le pays, qu'en effet les délégués sont arrivés et les habitants ont cru pouvoir rester à leur place, mais aussitôt les délégués partis on commença de plus belle à attaquer les pauvres habitants.

Ils demandent aide et protection.

Le $\frac{21 \text{ Mai}}{5 \text{ Juin}}$ 1878.

(Suivent plusieurs sceaux et signatures.)

No. 394.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 771.)
Therapia, June 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a petition, together with a translation, addressed to your Lordship by the inhabitants of Serres, Novrokop, and other places, protesting against their countries being included in the "Bulgaria" of the Treaty of San Stéfano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 394.

Petition from Serres, &c.

(Traduction ou résumé.)

LES Soussignés s'empressent de faire savoir à tous les Cabinets de l'Europe, qu'ils s'opposent à l'incorporation de leur pays dans la nouvelle Bulgarie, ainsi que cela fut stipulé dans le Traité de San Stéfano. Ils soutiennent que la majorité Musulmane y est prépondérante, tant sous le point de vue du nombre que sous celui de la propriété foncière; que les Bulgares ne sont que des bergers et des laboureurs étrangers au pays, et par conséquent incapables d'en entreprendre l'administration, tandis que les Musulmans possédent toutes les qualités à cet effet; qu'en dépit d'un tel état de choses créer une administration Bulgare, ce serait ériger les troubles et les désordres en état chronique, attendu qu'une triste expérience a montré de quoi les Bulgares sont capable; et qu'enfin plutôt que de se soumettre à une annihilation certaine de leur nationalité, ils sont prêts à recourir à tous les moyens légitimes d'une défense. Pour toutes ces raisons ils protestent de la manière la plus formelle contre le susdit arrangement et espèrent que les Puissances ne dédaigneront pas de prendre en considération leur juste réclamation.

Le $\frac{29}{17}$ *Mai*, 1878.

(Signé) Les Fondés de pouvoir des Habitants des Districts de Serres, Novrecop, Zenkiné, Timour-Hissar, Monclik, et Pétrich.

No. 395.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 772.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt, respecting the return from Greece of the Thessalian refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 395.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, June 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the telegraphic note which the Porte addressed through its Minister at Athens to the Greek Government regarding the conditions decreed by His Majesty the Sultan for the pacification of the late insurgent provinces.

Copies of this note have been forwarded by the Greek Foreign Office to the Greek Consuls in Turkey, and I obtained the one inclosed from the Greek Consul here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 395.

Safvet Pasha to Photiades Bey.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 14 Mai, 1878.*

L'INSURRECTION dans le Vilayet de Janina ayant cessé Sa Majesté le Sultan vient de décréter les dispositions suivantes:—

1. Amnistie sans conditions et un délai de vingt jours, à partir de la date de sa promulgation, sont accordés aux insurgés afin de permettre à toutes les bandes de rentrer chez elles.

2. Retraite de toutes les troupes irrégulières Ottomanes du Vilayet de Janina, du reste toutes ces troupes ont déjà été rétirées.

3. Défense absolue aux habitants Musulmans et non Musulmans de porter les armes.

4. Mise en liberté immédiate des prisonniers impliqués directement, ou indirectement, dans la révolte et remise de ceux appartenant à la nationalité Hellénique au Consul de Grèce pour être rapatriés. Les insurgés refusant de rentrer chez eux dans le délai seront traités comme des proscrits.

5. Remission des impôts pendant une année en faveur des villages et des fermes, tant Musulmans comme Chrétiens, situés dans les localités insurgées et qui auront été endommagés.

6. Facilités à être accordées par le Gouvernement Hellénique pour la découverte et la restitution du bétail et autres biens enlevés aux habitants. Nous espérons que ces mesures assureront le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité rétablis et nous remercions le Gouvernement Hellénique d'avoir bien voulu contribuer à ce résultat.

Quant aux débris des bandes qui restent dans le vilayet les autorités Helléniques nous prêteront, conformément à la Convention de 1865, leur concours efficace pour l'extirpation de ces bandits.

Inclosure 3 in No. 395.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Separate.)

Sir, *Larissa, June 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter which the Greek Consul, M. Palamidi, has addressed to Said Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, under

date the 1st instant, in answer to the letters from his Excellency, of which I forwarded copies to your Excellency in my despatch of the 30th ultimo, relative to the return of the refugees from Greece, and the recovery of the cattle and sheep which were carried off during the late events.

Your Excellency will observe that the Greek Consul conveys to Said Pasha, on the part of the Nomarch of Larissa, the assurances that those objects are occupying his earnest attention, and have already been attended with success. The Nomarch also declares, in courteous terms, his anxious desire to co-operate with Said Pasha in the completion of the reciprocal arrangements entered into between their respective Governments.

I avail myself of this opportunity to forward to your Excellency, also inclosed herewith, a statement showing the number of refugee families who have returned to their homes in district of Domoco, and in the plain villages of districts of Carditza and Tricalla.

According to this statement, out of 1,894 refugee families from the above-named localities, 950 have returned up to the 31st ultimo.

This statement has been furnished by the Greek Archbishop of Larissa; its accuracy may be relied upon, as the Archbishop keeps correct registers of the village population liable to pay church dues, and is, therefore, directly interested in the matter.

Some refugees have also returned to district of Armyro, and to the villages in the Agrapha Mountains; but I am not yet able to furnish the precise numbers.

While, on the one hand, the Greek Government appears to afford facilities for the return of these refugees, on the other there is no doubt that some parties in Greece are acting in a contrary sense. The agents who are employed by the Turkish authorities to carry out their intentions report that some of the Greek frontier subordinate authorities, and late insurgent Chiefs, endeavour to persuade the refugees not to return to Thessaly till after the meeting of the Congress, &c.

I inclose extracts of these reports. I have telegraphed as follows to Mr. Wyndham on the subject:—

"*Larissa, June 6.*

"Fugitives continue to return; more than 1,000 families have come back to their villages. Designing parties, however, try to persuade remainder not to return till after the Congress meets, and decides Greek question."

I also hear that Greek emissaries are trying to induce the refugees and the inhabitants of the late insurgent districts to prepare memorials to the Congress complaining of Turkish misrule, and praying that Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia should be annexed to Greece; and that, if this be not practicable, these provinces should be granted "self-government."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 395.

M. Palamidi to Said Pasha.

Excellence, *Larisse, le $\frac{29 \text{ Mai}}{1 \text{ Juin}}$, 1878.*

EN accusant réception des letters sub Nos. 1, 2, et 3, j'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence la traduction ci-dessous de la réponse de M. le Préfet à Larisse, à qui je m'étais empressé à faire parvenir le contenu de ces lettres:—

"Conformément aux ordres réitérés du Gouvernement Royal, je n'ai pas cessé à travailler avec empressement pour le prompt retour à leurs foyers des familles réfugiées et je me rejouis de pouvoir vous faire connaître que mes efforts ont eu plein succès, car outre que plusieurs de ces familles ont déjà retourné, il y en a encore un grand nombre qui se propose d'y retourner très prochainement. Je m'occupe aussi très activement à découvrir et restituer les bestiaux et autres effets enlevés qui se trouvent peut-être transportés à mon département, car le Gouvernement Royal exige que cette affaire soit aussi menée avec la plus grande activité et justice.

"Cependant il est nécessaire que les intéressés viennent ici pour pouvoir, avec le concours des autorités civiles et militaires, reconnaître et reprendre leurs bestiaux et effets. Veuillez communiquer le contenu de ma lettre à son Excellence le Gouverneur avec prière qu'il peut réclamer de moi l'exécution de telle mesure qu'il croirait

nécessaire pour l'accomplissement de l'arrangement survenu entre nos Gouvernements respectifs."

Je saisis, &c.
Le Consul de Grece,
(Signé) PALAMIDI.

Inclosure 5 in No. 395.

STATEMENT showing the number of Refugee Families from district of Domoco, and the number returned up to the 31st May, 1878.

Name of Village or Farm.	Number of Refugee Families.	Number Returned.	Number Absent.
Ondriaki	150	80	70
Pournari	50	10	40
Shiranitza	70	20	50
Veleshot	60	..	60
Ayerghani	80	30	50
Tchouller	50	25	25
Mosli	20	..	20
Pauayia	12	8	4
Kaitza	60	20	40
Derelli	30	10	20
Nezeron	25	10	15
Daildi	80	50	30
Tappenti	20	10	10
Dersent	15	6	9
Abdi-Mosli	8	3	5
Paluna	40	25	15
Dranatha	30	20	10
Ali Faka	20	5	15
Carı Hassan	16	3	13
Drahanli	20	5	15
Mandussia	35	20	15
Avaritza	40	20	20
Neohori	40	15	25
Hilindoo	20	6	14
Lefka	30	15	15
Alhanli	20	6	14
	990	419	571

NUMBER of Refugee Families from villages in plain districts of Carditza and Tricalla, who have returned to their homes.

Name of Village or Farm.	Number of Refugee Families.	Number Returned.	Number Absent.
Mavrogi	150	149	1
Pyrgos	29	23	6
Mavrikori	50	12	38
Sofades	250	50	200
Anogky	20	20	..
Pallia	30	30	..
Pinarak	25	..	..
Magoulla	40	40	..
Kamara	50	50	..
Zachanades	30	30	..
Comanades	35	35	..
Tchimarri	30	..	30
Hadjibassi	50	25	25
Loutra	40	20	20
Palouri	45	30	15
Vlochi	30	15	15
	904	531	373

SUMMARY.

	Number of Refugee Families.	Number Returned.	Number Absent.
26 villages, &c., in district of Domoco ..	990	419	571
16 villages, &c., in districts of Carditza and Tricalla	904	531	373
	1,894	950	944

Inclosure 6 in No. 395.

Extract of a Letter, dated Agrapha Mountains, May 30, 1878.

(Translation.)

HAVING proceeded yesterday to Castania in company with the Kaimakam of the troops, I called on the Greek officer of the station, Theodore Yanpulo, to whom I spoke about the return of the refugees, &c. He told us that it was not necessary for us to accompany them; moreover, he said that the refugees would have to pay Customs dues if they recrossed the border. He also blamed me for trying to urge the families to return, and accused me of injuring the Greek cause.

I replied that he was not justified in what he said, and in putting obstacles to the return of the families, and thus increasing their sufferings, and I also told him that I would report his conduct to the superior authorities.

Inclosure 7 in No. 395.

Extract of a Letter, dated Carditza, May 31, 1878.

(Translation.)

OF the refugees from the villages included in the Rendina Department, only those of Thaapsin, Ayithiki, Zabaraki, and Houtina, have returned; the others are being hindered by the following reasons:—

Certain agents of the Greek Government, namely, the Sub-Prefect of Capernision, Hadjopolou, the Ephor of the same place, the Mayor of Fourna, George Galis, and a Captain of the battalion stationed there, secretly threaten the fugitives that no sooner will they have crossed the frontier than they would injure them.

In the Department of Rendina the subordinates there of the late insurgent Chiefs Zolouni, Zerman, and Zica, and of the brigand Andrea Blatzodino, appear intentionally to act in the same direction and try to alarm the families and prevent them from returning to their villages. These same men also urge the families to wait at least twenty days more until the convocation of the European Congress, from which they will derive important benefits. They have also convinced them to send a deputation of two or three individuals of their party to Athens, whose expenses are defrayed by these gentlemen.

Moreover, they give 25 leptas per day to each refugee for his daily bread.

The above particulars are confirmed by the principal refugee families located at Fourna, who also told us that most of the families are sorely distressed, and wait anxiously the arrival of Turkish troops at Rendina and other villages in order that they may altogether cross the border at the same moment to return to their homes.

No. 396.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 773.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul R. Reade, reporting the refusal of the Russian

Governor-General of Bulgaria to permit the return of the Mussulman refugees to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 396.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, June 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the recent arrival at Rustchuk from St. Petersburgh of General Prince Dondukoff, he wrote a letter to General Fazli Pasha, informing him of his appointment by the Emperor as Governor-General of Bulgaria, and after other matters added that as Turkey had failed to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano as regards the three fortresses of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, he regretted that he could not allow the Mussulman refugees to return to their homes within the Russian line of demarcation.

Fazli Pasha said he replied that as any appointment the Prince might receive from his Emperor did not concern him in any way whatever, he could not recognize it, and that as his decision in regard to the refugees was one that would keep thousands of innocent people in a continued state of misery and suffering, he could only protest and refer it to his Government.

Most of these unfortunate refugees are in the villages about Shumla, where they are eking out a miserable existence. Many of them in despair are roaming about the country, and are driven to commit all sorts of irregularities and some acts of violence.

This indeed seems to be a most cruel measure, and at utter variance with the declarations of the Russians on the subject. I even heard several of the leading Bulgars at Shumla speaking very severely of what they called a decided act of cruelty, and if it is adhered to, the refugees in question thus not being able to sow their maize crops, will be further on exposed to the greatest straits.

From the continued bad treatment of all Mussulmans in general by the Bulgars, and of which I hear almost daily, I doubt if the Mussulmans would be able to remain in their homes, even if permitted to return, as all this is done with the entire connivance, indeed I may say the very support, of the Russians.

Fazli Pasha has reported all fully to the Porte, but has not as yet received any reply; in the meantime he said, very little short of 20,000 men, women, and children would continue to suffer from this merciless prohibition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 397.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 774.)

Therapia, June 14, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 711 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Willshire, which I have received through Her Majesty's Consulate-General, respecting outrages committed on the Mussulman population by the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 397.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Consul-General Fawcett.

Dédéagatch, June 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of the 4th instant, asking for details of the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians in this neighbourhood, and if these reports were true. I sent you the following answer next morning:—

"Refer to my report of the 29th ultimo to Ambassador. Reports are true. Not advisable to communicate by telegraph. Shall write by first opportunity."

Being informed that the Telegraph Office at Keshan, through which all telegrams from this place pass, is under Russian control, I did not consider it prudent to say more.

I have now to state that the bodies of these murdered Turks have been found. One had been shot, the other had had his head cut off, and the third (the young Turk who had been carried off in open day by four Bulgars from a coffee-house) had been first impaled and then cut in pieces. Four Turks from the village of Douralekeui are also missing, and it is supposed that they have been murdered. The terror that these murders have caused among the Turks is such that no one dares leave his village to come here and give information; as to the Bulgarians they will not denounce one another, but side with the brigands who commit these atrocities. I fear when security is re-established we shall hear from the Turks of other murders that have been committed in this neighbourhood.

Owing to the demands for money and threats that were sent to the Turkish residents in this place, all the Turks, with the exception of Mousta Effendi, the employé at the Health Office, left. Even the Cavass of the French Consulate was obliged to leave with his family. Mousta Effendi, on the evening of the 4th instant, received a letter from the brigands demanding 10 liras, and he was also going to leave, but I am glad to say that the same evening the Russian Major in command of the troops here received orders to pursue the brigands and disarm the brigands; the same night he went out with his soldiers and succeeded in capturing several brigands. And the next morning he sent to give notice at the different Bulgarian villages that he would have every Bulgarian shot who was taken with arms in his hands. These threats, and the presence here of a squadron of Caucasian Cossacks, sent to put a stop to Bulgarian proceedings, have sufficed to bring the Bulgarians to their senses, and security is now restored.

The same day (5th June) I addressed you the following telegram to inform you of the circumstance:—

"Russian Commander received yesterday evening orders to pursue brigands and disarm brigands. Measures taken by him very satisfactory. Last night several brigands were captured."

On the 8th instant Colonel Bilikoff, in command of the Caucasian Cossack regiment, arrived here by the Messageries steamer; he called upon me the same day and informed me that he had been sent here to protect the Turks against the Bulgarians, and that the squadron of his regiment are to occupy Fini, Dédéagatch, and Enos. He assured me he would do all in his power to restore tranquillity in these parts.

Since the measures taken by the Major, and the arrival of the Cossacks, the numerous armed Bulgarians who were to be seen lurking under the trees around this place have disappeared, and Petko, the famous brigand, is no longer here. It is reported that he has been wounded in the chest by some Bashi-Bazouks at a village called Provn, not far from Ortakeui and Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. W. WILLSHIRE.

No. 398.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 775.)

Therapia, June 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade, reporting an interview with Fazli Pasha, the Turkish Commander at Shumla, and the information he obtained respecting the Russian and Turkish forces in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 398.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, June 11, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, availing myself of a train that happened to be going to the Shumla Road station, I passed last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday collecting all the authentic information possible.

Having been told that Fazli Pasha has greatly changed in consequence of what he has received from Constantinople, I saw him. He was very communicative, and gave me much information.

The military force at present under his command is as follows:—

Infantry, 17 battalions, averaging about 500 men per battalion—9,350 men.

Cavalry, 2 regiments, altogether about 500 men.

Artillery, siege-guns of different calibres and quality, old and new; 200 field-pieces (Krupp); 8 batteries, 48 guns. There is a sufficient force of artillerymen for all these guns.

The General said that although the late reduction of his force by ten battalions was a heavy one for him, still, if no more reduced, he was pretty confident of being able to hold Shumla against the present Russian forces at Rasgrad and its vicinity, from whence the attack would come; but he added that he could make no offensive movement. He also informed me that he was sure of being able to raise a force (auxiliary) of at least 30,000 natives from the surrounding districts, and who would fight and support the regulars well within the fortifications. He has already been asked for arms by about 20,000. He also said that he has of late been very urgently pressed by the Russians to evacuate Shumla, but, from his replies, which he communicated to me, he has resisted them so firmly that about a fortnight ago they ceased to press him. One of the last proposals was an extraordinary one, viz., to occupy Shumla together, Turks and Russians. He simply replied by asking if such a proposal had come from a military officer.

He was further asked why he kept his earthworks manned, and which were not so in time of peace. He replied that that was a matter that concerned him alone, and declined to say anything further, since which they have ceased to press him. He has, however, so increased his vigilance, that he hopes it will be difficult to catch him dozing. The General said that the Russians of the Rasgrad district have been lately reinforcing their troops at the advanced points nearest to Shumla. They have also moved many more guns in the same direction. In fact, he is sure that this is with a view to Shumla, should they receive orders to advance. He also said that there were Russian troops at different points within the Turkish line of demarcation drawn out and signed by their own Commissioners. I believe he this week intends to proceed himself to these points, and, I also think, to request them to retire within their own line. As regards the evacuation of Shumla, he said that this would be a difficult matter, as, beyond all doubt, the whole Mussulman population in such a case would rise, as has occurred at Batoum. The General also told me that the Russians, chiefly at Rustchuk, are making great preparations, evidently in the event of war with England, and that in that case he is sure they will make a rush for Shumla, which, however, he added, he would resist to the utmost of his power. They (the Russians) are in treaty with the Railway Company for the immediate repair of the whole line, which it is expected will shortly be commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 399.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 776. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, June 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of two despatches from the French Consul at Varna to M. Fournier, and which his Excellency has been kind enough to communicate to me very confidentially, respecting the state of affairs in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 399.

M. Podnaysky to M. Fournier.

Consulat de France en Bulgarie, Varna, le 8 Juin, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

DANS ma lettre du 1er Juin j'avais l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence des tentatives faites par les Russes pour occuper divers points situés en deçà de la zone neutre, et par conséquent sur le territoire Ottoman. Tous ces faits ont eu lieu, mais sur les observations des autorités Ottomanes les Russes n'ont pas persisté dans leur dessein et se sont retiré au-delà de la zone neutre.

Malgré la certitude de la réunion du Congrès, les Russes ne croyent pas à la paix; telle est l'opinion confidentielle de plusieurs officiers d'Etat Major. Ils disent que la Russie a accepté le Congrès uniquement pour ne pas assumer sur elle seule la responsabilité de la guerre prochaine. Et en effet leurs faits et gestes, non seulement ne démentent pas l'opinion qu'ils avancent, ils la vérifient complétement. Ainsi, de nouvelles troupes arrivent continuellement de la Russie et passent le Danube à Zimnitza et à Roustchouk; dans cette dernière ville et aux alentours immédiats campent en ce moment ci deux corps d'armée. D'immenses quantités de munitions se trouvent accumulés dans Roustchouk, et tous les jours sans interruption de nouveaux convois arrivent. Le quartier-général de l'armée du Danube et les intendances ont été transférées de la Valachie également dans cette; tout fait croire qu'en cas d'une reprise des hostilités, Roustchouk serait le centre des opérations militaires des deux rives du Danube. D'autre part l'Etat Major Russe presse la compagnie d'exportation du chemin de fer Varna-Roustchouk, de réparer et mettre cette ligne en circulation sous le plus bref délai, dans le cas contraire ils menacent de réparer eux-mêmes les dégats de cette ligne jusqu'à Douran-Koui, 8 kilomètres en deçà de Rasgrad, et établir une Compagnie d'exploitation Russe. M. Rapaport, Sous-Directeur à la Direction Centrale de Constantinople, M. Dietz, Ingénieur à cette même Direction, et M. Harrower, Directeur de la ligne Roustchouk-Varna, se sont rendus à Roustchouk pour s'entendre avec la Commission Russe, nommée à cet effet. Jusqu'aujourd'hui l'accord n'a pas été établi.

M. Olivia, élève Consul au Consulat-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie, est arrivé ici le 4 de ce mois; il s'est rendu le lendemain à Bourgas avec un kaïk à voile, où il compte prendre le bateau Russe pour se rendre à Kustendji, de là par la voie ferrée à Tchernavoda sur le Danube, et remonter ensuite ce fleuve à Roustchouk. Il donnait pour prétexte, pour ne pas attirer l'attention sur sa tournée, que le voyage en voiture pour retourner à Roustchouk le fatiguait trop. J'ai la conviction que sa tournée a pour but de recueillir des informations exactes sur les forces Russes dans ces différentes localités, ainsi que sur l'administration et la nouvelle organisation, s'il a lieu, dans les pays occupés par les Russes.

M. Degubernatis, Consul d'Italie à Roustchouk, ayant obtenu un congé, a quitté cette ville le mois passé; il a été accompagné jusqu'au débarcadère avec force ovations par les autorités Russes de Roustchouk, se composant du Gouverneur de la ville, le Général Timotieff, du Sous-Gouverneur Dascaloff (Bulgar de nationalité, ci-devant Consul Russe à Varna), du Préfet de Police, des autorités Bulgares, et de deux délégués de la part de l'évêque.

J'ai eu souvent l'occasion de remarquer que M. Degubernatis avait un penchant secret pour les Russes, ainsi que pour les Prussiens; j'ai remarqué aussi que ce penchant ne lui était pas tout-à-fait personnel.

Je n'ai pas donné communication de cette dépêche à Paris, et en général je me suis toujours borné d'envoyer les renseignements que je pouvais recueillir à l'Ambassade seulement, pensant que votre Excellence sera meilleur juge de savoir quels de ces renseignements méritent d'être signalés au Département.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) PODNAYSKY (?).

Inclosure 2 in No. 399.

M. Podnaysky to M. Fournier.

Varna, le 13 Juin, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

A LA veille de la réunion d'un Congrès qui, tout en discutant des choses d'un ordre supérieur, doit aussi se prononcer sur l'organisation future des provinces Ottomanes qui à l'avenir devront s'appeler Principauté Bulgare, et d'après l'opinion règnant dans divers cercles en Europe devront recevoir une complète autonomie, je crois de mon devoir de signaler à votre Excellence les suites fâcheuses qui découleront inévitablement d'une organisation où les Bulgares seraient appelés à exercer la justice dans leurs Tribunaux sans l'intervention ni contrôle des autorités étrangères. Déjà aujourd'hui, où ils exercent ce droit sous la surveillance des préposés Russes, des injustices de vrais délits, sont journellement commis par ces Tribunaux. Tous les habitants des villes et des campagnes, à l'exception seulement de ceux de nationalité Bulgare qui ont fui le fléau de la guerre, et qui rentrent maintenant chez eux, trouvent leurs foyers, ainsi que tous leurs immeubles, dans la possession des Bulgares, et ils ont toutes les peines du monde à les déloger. Je connais déjà moi-même plusieurs individus dont le titre de propriété, tout en étant d'une autorité incontestable, ont été mis par les Tribunaux actuels à la porte, sans se donner la peine de regarder leurs titres, en leur signifiant que s'ils revenaient on leur ferait payer une amende de 100 roubles.

C'est ainsi que les Bulgares entendent exercer la justice à la veille même où l'Europe veut bien s'occuper de leur sort pour leur préparer un avenir plus conforme aux mœurs Européens. J'appréhends beaucoup, M. l'Ambassadeur, que si les Puissances Européennes venaient d'octroyer à la future Bulgarie une indépendance judiciaire, le séjour des Européens dans ce pays devient impossible à l'avenir.

A l'appui de mes assertions je prends respectueusement la liberté de soumettre à votre Excellence ci-jointe la lettre du Sieur Hasseu, sujet Français, Israélite, établi à Nicopolis, négociant, et propriétaire de beaucoup d'immeubles. Jusqu'aujourd'hui, sous un Gouvernement qui certainement laissait beaucoup à désirer, il a pu vivre et faire valoir ses propriétés, il paraîtrait d'après cette lettre que les Bulgares n'entendent pas imiter les Turcs.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) (Name illegible),

French Vice-Consul at Varna.

Inclosure 3 in No. 399.

M. Hassan to M. Podnaysky.

Nicopoli, le 30 Mai, 1878.

Monsieur,

AU commencement du bombardement du pays j'étais obligé, comme la plupart des habitants, de quitter Nicopoli et me sauver à Kustendil. Arrivé ici depuis quelques jours j'ai appris avec grande douleur que toutes mes propriétés aux villages et dans la ville et une partie de céréal n'existent de tout, excepté ma maison demie détruite. Par conséquence je pars pour les villages m'informer personnellement que ce que sont devenues les propriétés et céréals et à mon arrivée j'ai l'intention de partir pour Varna m'entendre avec vous.

En attendant, Monsieur, je vous salue, &c.

(Signé) A. HASSAN.

No. 400.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 603.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 21, 1878.

MR. CALVERT of Adrianople, in his despatch of 17th, gives further accounts of cruel treatment of Mussulmans by Russians and Bulgarians in that province. He mentions, among other things, that men of disgraceful character, who have been condemned for crimes, have been placed in authority, that the Russo-Bulgarian police (?) rob and plunder and murder Mussulmans with impunity, and that the Russians are collecting the taxes in advance, and depriving the Mussulmans who remain of their crops. I will send Mr. Calvert's despatches by next opportunity. The accounts that

they give are truly lamentable. They confirm suspicion that there is a deliberate attempt to drive Mussulman population from country occupied by the Russians.

No. 401.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 604.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 22, 1878.

I HAD a long conversation with the Grand Vizier this morning about Greece, and endeavoured to persuade him to agree to a rectification of frontiers, but he persists in saying that any cession of territory to Greece can only be made under pressure from Congress.

His Highness mentioned that you had urged Turkish Plenipotentiaries to advise Porte to lose no time in introducing reforms which would have a good effect upon public opinion. His Highness said that the Porte would be willing to do so if your Lordship would point out the reforms that you considered most necessary, and begged me to ask your advice on the subject. I mentioned a reform of the finances, and he said that if you would recommend a Commission to inquire into them and suggest persons to make inquiry as had been done in Egypt, he would be ready to accept one.

Safvet Pasha, although honest, is much wanting in vigour and energy, and it is difficult to get him to act unless strong pressure is brought to bear upon him.

No. 402.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 605.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 22, 1878.

FRENCH Ambassador has communicated to me confidentially following information from French Consul at Varna:—

"All the Russian forces concentrated at Rustchuk, except a few reserve battalions, have been moved to Silistria. The detachments scattered over the Dobrutcha have been concentrated at Bazardjik, and those which were at Rasgrad, Osman Bazar, Eski Djuma, and other places, have been concentrated in front of Shumla. Russian force near Eski Djuma estimated at 40,000; that near Bazardjik at between 30,000 and 32,000. The supposed object of these corps is to carry Shumla and Varna by a *coup de main*, should Congress fail to bring about peace.

"Russians are fortifying Black Sea coast from Kaliacria to the mouth of the Danube, and both sides of the river from Silistria to Sulina.

No. 403.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 607.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 22, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt to-day:—

"Turkish authorities report that several small bands of Greek insurgents occupied Agrapha Mountains, refusing to retire into Greece or to lay down their arms; also that the National Committees in Greece have sent to the frontiers 2,500 Chassepôt rifles and twenty horseloads of ammunition, to be distributed to Christian inhabitants of Agrapha within Turkish borders. Governor of Volo reports that thirty volunteers from Greece recently appeared in Mount Markar, the villagers of which are giving signs of insubordination. Governor of Arnayro reports that small bands of insurgents occupy the (word undeciphered) Mountain and fire on Turkish soldiers, and that refugees at Surbi will not return to their homes; in Mount Olympus also there are numerous small bands of insurgents and soldiers. Most of these bands rob and molest the Christians, and select as victims those who did not join in the late rising. Field-Marshal Aali Sahib Pasha has dispatched four battalions to re-occupy the Turkish blockhouses near the frontier. Porte should order him to act with moderation and circumspection, and the Greek Government should be urged to take measures against

the designs of the Committee, otherwise I apprehend serious disturbances will soon result from the circumstances I have reported. I shall return to Larissa the 23rd instant."

No. 404.

Sir H. Parkes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 23.*)

(No. 50.) *Yedo, May 10, 1878.*

My Lord,

THE present European crisis naturally attracts much attention in this country, but I have not detected any disposition on the part either of the Japanese Government or people to lean to the Russian side of the difference, nor am I aware of the existence of any secret engagements of an offensive or defensive nature between Russia and Japan, to which English journals occasionally allude.

In order that your Lordship may perceive that foreign politics are fairly comprehended and intelligently discussed by the Japanese press, I beg to inclose a translation of a recent article from the "Hôchi Shimbun" newspaper, reviewing the present European situation and the policy of the various Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure in No. 404.

Extract from the "Hôchi Shimbun" of April 30, 1878.

(Translation.)

ON the ground that the Treaty of Peace concluded at San Stefano between Russia and Turkey seriously involves the interests and tranquillity of the whole of Europe, England and Austria have requested that it be submitted to a general Conference of all the Powers, for modification, additions, and erasures; but Russia, afraid lest it should bring shame upon her rank as an Empire, and deprive her of real advantages, refuses to accede to the desire of these two countries, and there is a dangerous tendency towards the imminent misfortune of a grave breach between these three Powers.

In this quarrel and dispute, which affects national safety and prosperity, what most excites feeling in both Russia and England is the struggle for supremacy. If Asiatic Turkey should come to form part of the Russian dominions, it would be easy for her to obstruct the passage of ships through the Isthmus of Suez; and if the passage of the isthmus were obstructed, the English possession of India would be at an end. Much more so when it is difficult to guarantee that the tribute of Egypt, which is subject to Turkey, will not be taken as security for the payment of the indemnity. England's position rests upon her commerce and enormous wealth, and if the markets of the East should fall into other hands, the downfall of her national power would speedily follow. No wonder, then, that the English Cabinet opposes the Treaty of San Stefano, and refuses to sanction it. According to the latest telegrams, the feeling of the Russian people is very hostile to England, which is very probable. Who would not be indignant and fiercely angry if it were proposed to deprive him, by the obstruction of a country which was nowise concerned in the matter, of the advantages which he had with difficulty won, after the warm blood of his youth had dyed the grass and the horses' hoofs in a hundred fights? As feeling runs at present, even if the Russian Chancellor should be willing to give way and submit to the demands of the English Cabinet, the indignant tendency of popular feeling throughout the country would not hear of it. But to measure itself with England and Austria, and to enter into a contest with their military prestige and financial strength, would certainly not be to the advantage of Russia. The Chancellor himself must be perfectly well aware of this, and the reason of his hesitation and procrastination at the present moment is the difficulty of soothing the indignation of the popular feeling of the country.

England and Russia are the actual belligerents, while Germany and Austria form their reserves and auxiliaries. If these two should actually come to the aid of A and B, the effect would be sufficient entirely to change the map of Europe. Austria seems clearly to have the same interests as England at the present moment. It certainly is not to the advantage of the Austrian Court to sit quietly by while a

No. 404a.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 23.*)

(No. 751.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 8, 1878.

DR. CULLEN having recently been sent on a mission, connected with the Stafford House Committee, to Bulgaria, I begged him to make me a report upon the state of a part of Turkey at the present time difficult of access to strangers. Dr. Cullen, speaking Russian and Turkish, and being well acquainted with this country and its populations, had exceptional facilities for obtaining information. The account which he gives, and which I inclose, of the result of the Russian occupation of the European provinces of Turkey, the revolting conduct of the Bulgarians towards the unfortunate Mussulman population, the state to which that population is reduced, and the countenance which the Russian authorities appear to give to unparalleled acts of cruelty and persecution, deserve your Lordship's consideration, and ought to be exposed to the execration of the civilized world. But in publishing Dr. Cullen's Report, it might, perhaps, be as well not to mention his name.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 404a.

Dr. Cullen to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

33, Gul Han, Pera, June 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to call your Excellency's attention to the following notes made during a journey from Constantinople to Sofia and back from which I have lately returned:—

At Adrianople one cannot help noticing the vast number of Turkish refugees and their sad condition. I saw several sick men and women lying in the streets in a terrible state of exhaustion, and, on inquiry, found there was no hospital to which they could be taken. Thus, they are allowed to die in the streets. I entered into conversation with many of the refugees and was told that they were tolerably well-treated by the Russians, though cases of great cruelty came under my notice. I heard of more than one case in which Turkish girls had been carried off by Bulgarians and violated. The Turks particularly complained of the great persecution they met with from the Bulgarians, against which they had no appeal. At Philippopoli the number of refugees was much less, but their treatment by both Russians and Bulgarians was decidedly worse. Their miserable appearance and care-worn looks were most distressing to observe. They complained most bitterly of the Bulgarians, and I, myself, saw several cases of persecution. One in which a Turkish woman, going quietly along the road, was set upon and her "yashmuck" torn from her head and rent in pieces. She was struck violently several times, but though she cried out, no notice was taken of her by some Russian officers who were close at hand. The destruction of Turkish houses is most deplorable. The Bulgarians are pulling down houses in good preservation, simply out of wanton mischief, and burning the wood. This is being done quite openly, and at the rate it is going on there will soon be no Turkish houses left in the town. At one spot a Turkish graveyard was being converted into a pleasure ground, and a theatre is being built upon it. The tombstones were being removed from their places and used in making a wall round the spot as well as laying the foundation of the theatre. Turks were employed here, and a strong gang of Bulgarian police was set over them, who failed not to use their whips upon any unfortunate Mussulman who flagged in his labours. I saw one man receive a most unmerciful thrashing, myself, without any cause. The overbearing arrogance of the Bulgarians is intolerable, and is complained of by all classes. The Russians passively encourage the Bulgarians in all they do, and make them their tools for the certain

extinction of the Turks. The Greeks complain of the great pressure that has been put upon them to compel them to declare themselves Bulgarians. As Greeks, they found every obstacle put in the way of their trading, and they were much annoyed by the treatment they met with by the Bulgarians. At Tatar-Bazardjik there were fewer Turkish refugees than at Philibe, but their condition was worse. The greater part of the town is in ruins, and most of the Turkish houses have been destroyed. There were some 3,000 Russian troops there, and sickness was rife amongst them. The death-rate given by the Russian doctors was 1 per cent. per day. The Turks complained that their women and girls were constantly carried off by the Bulgarians and kept for a day or two by them, during which they were violated and otherwise cruelly treated, after which they were allowed to return. I heard Russian officers boasting of the Turkish girls they had amused themselves with, and of the cleverness of the Bulgarians in finding them out and securing them. The Turks have no one to whom they can appeal, and at present suffer silently all the indignities thrust upon them, but they meditate deeply on the vengeance they intend to deal out when they get the chance. They are in communication with the Pomaks in the Rhodope Balkans and intend to rise against the Bulgarians when they receive the signal from the Pomaks, that they are going to descend into the plain which, they say, they shall do, as soon as the Russians are occupied elsewhere.

The Turks have very little to say against the Russians except that they allow the Bulgarians to do much as they like. Personally, the Russians are not unkind in their treatment of the Turks. At Belova and Little Belova I heard a dreadful account of the terrible treatment the Turkish villagers met with after their retreat had been cut off by the Russians near there. They were first disarmed and plundered by the Cossacks, and then left to the fouler mercies of the Bulgarians, by whom many of them were murdered, and all of them pillaged, being left nearly naked. The ground at this spot is still covered with fragments of clothing (principally women's) and many bones. The Germans at Belova told me that the bodies of men and women lay about for a long time unburied. They said that as the wounded Turks, retreating from Samakov on foot, came staggering along the road, they were shot down by the Bulgarians who had been furnished with arms. I was shown several places where the bones of these unfortunate men still lay unburied. Between Tatar-Bazardjik and Bania all the Turkish and Circassian villages have been entirely destroyed, and as the spots are overgrown with weeds, very little of them is to be seen. In Bania nearly all the Turkish houses have been destroyed more or less. There are a few Turkish families there who have lately been sent back from Bazardjik, to which place they had retreated. These poor people are in a sad condition, their homes scarcely capable of sheltering them; their cattle have been taken from them by the Bulgarians, and they have neither implements with which to cultivate the land nor seed to sow in it when ready. They meet with the most savage treatment from the Bulgarians, who beat them whenever they dare move a short distance even from their homes. Their women are constantly insulted and often outraged. I went round from house to house, and inquired into their state. I found them living in perpetual dread of what would take place next, and unable to move out of their houses except in fear and trembling. They all of them seized the idea of leaving the country as the only means of escaping from the persecution they met with.

The further I went from Constantinople, the worse I found the condition of the Turks, and I do not wonder (after what I saw and heard) at their rising in revolt, and cannot see how they can ever live in peace under the Bulgarians. The principle adopted by the Bulgarians, with the tacit consent of the Russians, is one which must lead to the Turks leaving the country or being exterminated. At Samakov, affairs were much more cheerful, though bad enough. There were some 200 Turkish families there, but the presence of 800 Russian troopers restrained the Bulgarians from persecuting them to the full extent that was observable in many other places. The Bulgarians of Samakov are, however, a very superior race, and much better educated than is usual. As a proof of this the Russians speak in high praise of the intelligence of the Samakov recruits. The Greeks of Samakov have been obliged to become Bulgarians, and the young men have been enlisted for the Bulgarian legion. They protest against this, but to no purpose. The Turks there move about the town unmolested, but dare not proceed even a short distance outside it. The few who have ventured to do so have been set upon and beaten. Most of the interior of the Mosques have been destroyed, and only one is left to the Turks to worship in. Houses have not been damaged to the same extent as in other towns. The Russians are very suspicious, and one is not allowed to proceed anywhere without being watched. The Turks of

Samakov are in communication with the Pomaks and are ready to join them at a moment's notice. The Russians suspect this, and a close watch is kept upon them in consequence. The Russian officers talked of a descent on Samakov, by the Pomaks, as an event not at all unlikely to take place. There were only some 300 troopers there before, but lately they have been reinforced and now number 800 men. The Russian officers themselves give the number of the revolted Pomaks as 70,000 men; but I should say from information I received from many quarters that there were not more than half that number. People coming from the Balkans speak of the Pomaks as well armed and in good spirits. They have a large supply of ammunition and plenty of food. There are many thousands of refugees there who look upon themselves as perfectly safe from any attack likely to be made upon them by the Russians.

At Samakov I heard from two Bulgarians who had lately come from Tahtahli that the Pomaks had taken four guns from the Russians when they cut 400 of them to pieces. They said there were also six more guns there, which were left behind by Suleiman Pasha in his retreat.

The Bulgarians begin to complain of the heavy taxes that are being laid upon them, and the drain upon their strength occasioned by the constant demand for more recruits. The Bulgarian army is to consist of at least 120,000 men.

At Sophia, I was struck by the vast destruction of Turkish property. Whole streets of houses have been ruined. Many houses have been entirely removed, but most of them only partly damaged, but that to such an extent as to render their repair all but impossible. In some of the better class of houses, the painted ceilings have been torn down and strewn about the place. Many houses are minus half of their walls, and are in a very dangerous state. There are very few Turks there, not above fifty families, and those of the poorest class. They are very cruelly treated, and the women constantly outraged. Several Turkish girls are kept by Russian officers. This I heard from the Russians themselves, as well as from the Turks.

In front of what was the "Conack," the Russians are making a municipal garden, on ground belonging to a former Turkish resident. Here fifty Turks are forced to work every day without pay or food; and the services of Jews are also impressed. The Jews have protested against this on their own part, but without avail. The Turks dare not protest, so patiently submit. Bulgarian zaptiehs are placed over them, and keep them hard at work. They flog them constantly, and illtreat them as much as they can. One poor man I saw begging a zaptieh to let him have a drink of water, but the savage refused the request, though the fountain was not more than twenty yards distant. The heat was great, and the man looked very exhausted, was old and grey-bearded, but that had no effect on the hard-hearted Bulgarian. I repeatedly saw Turkish women pushed about in a very unbecoming manner, and otherwise illtreated. There were sixty-five Turkish sick and wounded in a hospital under the charge of their own doctor, &c. The Russians supplied them with food and medicines. Typhus fever was raging amongst the Russian sick, of whom there were 1,200 in hospital. The death-rate had been as much as 3 per cent. per day, but has now come down to about 1½ per cent. per day.

Seven doctors and many nurses have fallen victims to their devotion to their charges, within a very short space of time. Five nurses were down with typhus when I was there. One pharmacien and one nurse died the morning I arrived there, and a doctor died the following day.

There were about 5,000 Russian troops in the city; but there was a talk of the Servians coming to occupy the place, when the Russians would be able to withdraw. The Bulgarians, however, resented this, and were very indignant at the bare idea of such a thing. Bulgarian recruits were coming in every day, and were being drilled with great energy by Russian officers, who kept them at it for hours at a time. The Russians spoke in terms of the greatest contempt of these same recruits, and treated them with much severity. I saw them flogging them constantly, because they could not do what they were told. They were most of them from the district round Sophia, and were a dreadfully ignorant lot; so much so, that they could not distinguish between right and left, and the Russians were obliged to bind a straw-band on one of their legs and a hay-band on the other, to refresh their memory; but even this had not always the desired effect.

The day after I arrived there, a strong detachment of the Bulgarian Legion came in from Ichtiman, for the protection of the city. On entering the town they made savage rushes at all those wearing fezes, tore them from their heads, pulled out the tassels, rent the caps in pieces, and then cast them under foot, where they were trampled upon, or hurled them in the faces of their owners. Within half an hour

of entering the place, this same legion of Bulgarian patriots had broken into seven shops and plundered them of their contents. This, too, with 5,000 Russian troops in the city, who are supposed to afford protection to life and property. The same night some of the officers of the legion came into collision with some Russian officers, and a free fight was the result. Ultimately the Russians were reinforced, and the Bulgarian patriots fled in haste, though not before they had been well thrashed by the Russians.

All classes, except the Bulgarians, complained of the restrictions that were now put upon them, and the hindrance to trade the new order of affairs was. The Bulgarians themselves strongly object to military service, and though they say they are glad to be rid of the Turks, they would much rather some other nation occupied the country than the Russians, whom they find very hard taskmasters. There is a strong feeling of rebellion amongst the better class of Bulgarians at the treatment they meet with from the Russians. The taxes have been doubled, and in many cases even four times the amount is being collected, to what was formerly demanded by the Turks. The Russian superior officers say that the Bulgarians are utterly incapable of governing themselves, and require a strong hand over them for two generations. Amongst themselves they talk constantly of war with England, and look upon it as unavoidable. They spoke of the Congress as a means of gaining time for further military preparations. These are being carried on between here and Sophia with redoubled energy, and every day troops arrive, viâ Yamboli, and proceed towards Constantinople. One cannot help noticing the immense store of provisions, &c., which have been collected within the last month, and the vast number of men added to the former forces. In twelve days the difference astounded me, particularly the gigantic quantity of ammunition.

After the arrival of the Russians, the Bulgarians cut down all the telegraph poles between Sophia and Samakov, and Sophia and Bazardjik. Only one part of the line from Sophia to Ichtiman has been replaced, and all telegrams pass round by way of Orkhanie and Kyzanlik.

In returning through the Derbend Pass, I twice came upon bodies of men in a sad state of decay, not far from the main road. I examined them carefully, and have not the least hesitation in pronouncing them to have been done to death with violence, by the marks they bore. There could be no doubt as to their being Turks. A Russian doctor told me at Sophia, that since they entered the town in January last, over 7,000 men had died from sickness (principally typhus) alone. A coffin contractor told me for a long time he delivered fifty coffins a day. The price of everything has doubled since the Russians arrived, but supplies are at present abundant. The loss of transport animals last winter was something dreadful, and there is a scarcity of beasts for the purposes of agriculture. Many people may be seen cultivating their lands with spade and hoe. The health of the country people is generally good, though a malignant type of syphilis exists to an alarming extent in Sophia. The presence of the Russians has not improved the morals of the Bulgarians, which was not of the purest before, but are now decidedly worse. I myself and with no let or hindrance in my journey through the country, though I attribute this to my being generally taken for a German, and more than once for a Russian. For, I think, suspected my nationality, or they would not have been so communicative.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES EDWARD CULLEN.

powerful neighbour increases his strength and roves at will on the shores of the Black Sea. Considered from the point of view of policy, this is the theory of the matter. Moreover, when Hungary, which forms a part of Austria, endeavoured nobly to assert its independence, it was humiliated by Russia, and hatred has penetrated to its core, nor has the desire of its inhabitants to take revenge died out even yet. Should an opportunity present itself, they will take up arms with alacrity. A proof of this is that when the Austrian Cabinet demanded war funds from the Parliament in order to place its military preparations on a sufficient footing, the Hungarian Delegates at once sanctioned the vote and declared their readiness to provide the whole sum. This fact is sufficient to show us the direction which public feeling is taking, and therefore we are in a position to infer the conduct of the Austro-Hungarian Empire both from popular feeling and from considerations of policy.

With regard to Germany, there are reasons which render it impossible to predict her behaviour. A few years back, at a meeting of the Russian and German Emperors it was agreed that they should be inseparable fast friends (*lit.*, like cheek and gum, lips and teeth), and that while the Russian Emperor should extend his dominions in Asia on the east, the German Emperor should grasp the supremacy in Europe on the west; and they entered into a league to support and aid each other in satisfying their several aspirations. This is the reason who the public nowadays supposes Germany to be a Russian auxiliary; but as this alliance and private compact of the Emperors was not founded upon friendly feeling or principle, but simply proceeded from selfish dynastic motives, the German Emperor is certainly not pleased to see Russia becoming suddenly powerful before he has got what he wants himself in the west, in Europe. The Iron Prince, Bismarck, also, must know that it is a subject of anxiety. Consequently, even if he outwardly puts on a show of friendliness towards the Russian Emperor, he must secretly feel distrust of him. And not only are England and Austria no contemptible foes, but France, too, intends to take her revenge at some future time, and is perpetually on the watch for a chance. If in this great conflict she should make a single false step, France would at once take advantage of the opportunity, and advance her troops to the frontier; in the ancient Kingdom of Poland, kept down by an iron chain for so many years, we should see volunteers rising to claim independence, while the German Confederation, which is held together by powerful prestige and rude force, would take the opportunity of falling to pieces. In that case, the new Empire, which the Iron Prince and the German Emperor have established at the cost of so much labour, to leave to their descendants, will disappear without a leaving a trace behind. Hence it is certain that the German Cabinet will not encounter these perils and dangers, and stake the national fortunes, in order to observe a private compact such as this. So that, though it may not be German policy to aid England and Austria, neither will she help Russia. It is quite right that Germany should mediate between Russia and England, and desire to secure a peaceable result, and the efforts of Germany will certainly not go beyond this.

If a balance is in equilibrium, a very slight weight added to one scale will disturb it, and much more so when, as far as her military power is concerned, Austria is inferior to neither England or Russia. That England outweighs Russia is beyond a doubt, and if there is fighting England and Austria will be victorious; while if there be peace England and Austria will attain their objects. So long as Germany is not willing to impair her national strength for the sake of Russia, Russia will be alone in peril, and cannot hope to succeed in her objects. We hope that the next telegrams will decide whether our views are correct.

No. 405.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 752. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 8, 1878.*

WHEN I saw the Sultan some days ago he informed me that it was his intention to name his late Prime Minister, Sadyk Pasha, and Karatheodori Effendi, his Plenipotentiaries at the Congress. I announced these appointments to your Lordship. They were, in my opinion, the best that could be made under the circumstances, and I expressed to His Majesty my satisfaction at his choice. I learnt, early yesterday morning, that His Majesty had changed his mind with regard to Sadyk Pasha, and had resolved not to send him to Berlin. I called on the Grand Vizier to suggest to

him that his sudden determination on the part of His Majesty could not but make an unfavourable impression, and that it was very desirable that Turkey should be represented at the Congress by a Turkish statesman of the position and capacity of Sadyk Pasha. Safvet Pasha said that he had exhausted every argument to induce the Sultan to alter his resolution, but without success.

As the Sultan himself had told me of his intention to name Sadyk Pasha, I proposed to the Grand Vizier to see His Majesty, and to represent to him the importance of adhering to his first choice. His Highness earnestly begged me to do so, requesting me, however, not to commit him by leading His Majesty to suspect that I was acting on his suggestion.

The Sultan was good enough to receive me as soon as I arrived at the palace. I told His Majesty that, as he had encouraged me to come to him whenever I had any important matter to submit to him, I had ventured to avail myself of his gracious invitation. I then expressed to His Majesty the regret with which I had learnt that he had resolved not to send Sadyk Pasha to the Congress. I submitted to His Majesty that it was of the utmost importance that he should be represented at the great Assembly, which was about to discuss matters affecting the highest interests of his Empire, by a Turkish Mussulman statesman who could speak with authority and was capable of pleading the cause of Turkey before the most distinguished diplomatists in Europe. I pointed out that it could not but make an unfavourable impression if it were supposed that His Majesty could not find such a man amongst his servants. As His Majesty, I said, had himself proposed Sadyk Pasha to me, I hoped His Majesty would not depart from the choice that he had made, and which I had already announced to Her Majesty's Government.

The Sultan listened with attention to these and other arguments that I submitted to him. He replied that, in the first instance, it had occurred to him to name Sadyk Pasha on account of this acquaintance with Europe, his knowledge of the French language, and the high offices of State that he had filled; but that, on further reflection, he had changed his mind. He could assure me that he had not done so lightly, but for sufficient reasons. If his choice of a First Plenipotentiary were to be limited to a Mussulman there were, perhaps, only two other Turkish statesmen who could, under present circumstances, be sent to Berlin, Safvet Pasha and Ahmed Veyk Pasha. The former could not be spared, and the health of the latter, of whom His Majesty spoke very favourably and kindly, prevented him undertaking the journey. He had, therefore, determined upon naming, as his First Plenipotentiary, Karatheodori Effendi, whose qualifications for the mission His Majesty very ably described, and whom he had now, he said, raised to the rank of a "Mushir." In taking this step, His Majesty went on to say, he was desirous of showing that he was resolved to act in accordance with the principle laid down in the Constitution which he had given to his people that, in future, there was to be no distinction of creeds as regards the public service. He was now appointing a Christian to a post of the highest importance and trust. He hoped that this would be accepted as a proof that he was determined to place his Christian on the same footing as his Mussulman subjects. Karatheodori Pasha would be accompanied by Mehemet Ali Pasha and by Sadoullah Boy, his present Ambassador at Berlin. He had selected the first on account of his intimate acquaintance with the provinces of European Turkey into which changes were proposed to be introduced by the Congress. Sadoullah Boy had diplomatic experience. Thus, remarked His Majesty, one of my Plenipotentiaries will be a Christian, another will be of European (German) origin, although a Mussulman, and the third will be an Osmanli and a Mahomedan.

I asked His Majesty what had induced him to change his opinion as to Sadyk Pasha. He replied that Sadyk Pasha was an overrated man, that he wished to move too fast, and to introduce changes into the country for which it was not yet prepared. Ahmed Veyk Pasha, His Majesty said, was denounced as a madman; but he was a far wiser, safer, and more practical statesman than Sadyk Pasha. During the time Ahmed Veyk Pasha had held office as head of the Government he had given him entire satisfaction, and had shown himself a loyal Minister and an able administrator.

His Majesty said that when he came to the throne he had given a Constitution to his people, and that he intended to observe it. On the other hand, he hoped that his own rights would be equally respected by his subjects. He had lost his confidence in Sadyk Pasha, because he had reason to believe that that statesman intended to interfere with, and restrict his prerogatives. To this he could not consent. His Majesty evidently alluded to the scheme attributed to Sadyk Pasha, and alleged to have for its object to limit and restrain the influence of the palace, referred to in my despatch

No. 655 of May 21, which had been published by the European press, in consequence of a grave breach of trust on the part of a person employed confidentially at the Porte.

I saw that there was so strong a bias in the Sultan's mind against Sadyk Pasha that it was quite useless to make any further attempt to prevail upon His Majesty to change his resolution not to send him to the Congress. I, consequently, turned the conversation to other subjects. His Majesty spoke in very high terms of Safvet Pasha, and said that he had entire confidence in him, as he believed him to be an upright, able, and trustworthy Minister, although, perhaps, a little slow in action and in speech. But although he might possess this defect, His Majesty added, he was better than a hasty and imprudent man, who might bring trouble and disaster upon the country. I ventured to observe to His Majesty that as he trusted his present Prime Minister I hoped that he would keep him, for I could not but warn His Majesty, as a true friend, that the continual Ministerial changes which had recently been made, had produced a very unfavourable impression on public opinion, and had tended to diminish the authority and credit of His Majesty's Government. The Sultan took my observation in good part, saying that he was quite aware of the mischief that such frequent changes were calculated to cause, and that he regretted them, but that circumstances had compelled him to make them. He had, he said, every intention of keeping Safvet Pasha as long as possible as the Grand Vizier. His Majesty added that he deplored the want of capable statesmen in Turkey, such as Reschid, Fuad, and Ali Pashas, whose deaths had been an irreparable loss to Turkey.

During an interesting conversation of nearly two hours that I had with His Majesty, I did not observe the slightest trace of the delusion under which he has been labouring, that there is a wide-spread conspiracy against his throne and life, in which even his Ministers and some of his most faithful and devoted servants are engaged. He spoke of the recent plot to replace his brother on the throne, and the occurrences at Tchiraghan, with perfect calmness. He said that his eyes had now been opened to the truth, and that he was convinced that the attempt was the work of a few madmen, that no persons of any influence were implicated in it, and that it was not countenanced or approved by the people or the army. His Majesty observed that he had, at once, exculpated his brother from any share in it, and had released him and allowed him to return to his former residence at Tchiraghan. His Majesty added that he wished to treat his brother with kindness and affection, and to make him as happy as his unfortunate condition permitted. "It is hard," His Majesty said, "that I should be accused of cruelty to him, and of even seeking his life. If I had wished his death a stray shot might have effected it when the struggle took place in the palace, or other means might have been found to bring it about; but I would never be guilty of so great a crime."

His Majesty spoke with great earnestness and fluency, indeed with eloquence, of his intentions for securing the good of his people and for developing the resources of his Empire. He pressed me to remain, when I begged him to allow me to retire, as night was coming on, and I had to return to Therapia. He asked me to dine with him alone next Monday, that we might renew the conversation.

I am inclined to believe that, should Karatheodori Pasha give satisfaction to the Sultan in the discharge of his difficult mission, His Majesty may make him Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 406.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

No. 184. Secret.)
My Lord, *Washington, June 10, 1878.*

I CANNOT ascertain that the Russian agents in this country have as yet purchased more than three steamers, viz., the "State of California," the "Columbus," and the "Saratoga." The deeds of sale of these three have been made to the name of Wharton Barker, of Philadelphia.

I have the honour to inclose an engraving of the "Columbus" as she was previously to her sale. She will be altered by her upper works being cut away, and

by an additional mast between the other two being placed in her. She, like the other two steamers, is intended to carry six guns.

Endeavours will be made to obtain photographs or sketches of these and all other vessels which may be purchased for the Russian Government, as soon as the necessary alterations may be completed.

I understand that a contract has also been entered into by Russian agents with Messrs. Cramp and Co., for the construction of a fourth vessel, 240 feet in length. I have as yet no further particulars as to what she is to be.

There seems also to be some foundation for a rumour that negotiations are pending for three more ships to be built by Cramp and Co., and that they are engaged to build twenty steam launches.

One of the Russian officers has stated that two Russian men-of-war are now on their way to this country from Cronstadt, the "Djigite," carrying twelve guns, and the "Prince Potijarski," of sixteen guns, and that they are to come to Philadelphia, which seems to be the port selected for fitting out all the ships purchased for the Russian Government.

The same officer adds that the guns for the new ships are coming from Russia in a German vessel.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the Acting Consul at Philadelphia, giving a report of a visit paid at the request of Rear-Admiral Gore-Jones by Lieutenant H. M. C. Festing, late of Her Majesty's ship "Opal," to the steamer "State of California," on his way through that city. Lieutenant Festing thinks that it will take at least three weeks more to complete her for sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 406.

Acting Consul Cramp to Sir E. Thornton.

Philadelphia, June 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you that on the 4th instant, at the request of Admiral Gore-Jones, Lieutenant H. M. C. Festing, late of Her Majesty's ship "Opal," visited the steam-ship "State of California," now fitting out at this port for the Government of Russia. Mr. Festing's report of his investigation is so complete that I deem it my duty to forward it to you, as well as to the Admiral, who is at present in New York.

The Lieutenant examined the ship most carefully from deck to hold, finding it most difficult to obtain any information from the workmen, among whom there was extraordinary activity. There were numerous Russian officers in the yard who appeared to be attending to various duties. At the present time there are no fittings for torpedoes or guns on the ship. On the main-deck forward are two ports which he thinks were originally intended for cargo and coaling ports. These are now being closed with iron plates, whether with screw bolts or rivets he could not see or ascertain from inquiry.

They appear to be strengthening the midship part of spar-deck forward on keel line, with iron plates, and will, doubtless, do the same aft, if a gun is to be placed there. There are no extra stanchions or spar-deck supports in place yet on main-deck. With regard to magazine fittings, they are laying an iron floor on ship's bottom in fore compartment, but nothing else is visible. With regard to bedding ship's company, the fore part of lower deck is being cased in with wood (or lined), and the new deck is being laid and caulked. There are no signs, as yet, of hammock hooks or messing appurtenances.

There appears to be room for a goodly number of men. Racks for shot and shell have not yet been commenced, and there is no indication where they will be placed. Respecting the alteration in rig, the Lieutenant found them cutting a hole for a third mast—mainmast—which he thinks will be aft of the funnel. There are no visible arrangements for boats' davits, nor can anything be seen regarding steam pinnaces. The galley and cooking arrangements are not yet commenced, but outside the saloon on main deck aft are many small cabins (cant pieces only are down), supposed to be pantries and stewards' apartments. The officers' quarters will be aft on main-deck, the state rooms and the saloon are about under way, as far as can be judged. Around engines as high as upper deck (with upper combing a foot higher) they have placed an

iron bulkhead, seemingly about five-eighths of an inch thick. Outside this bulkhead is a 3 feet 6 inch passage-way running fore and aft (communicating between fore and aft part of ship, with no doors as yet). Outside of this passage-way, and running the length of the engine-room, bulkhead, and passage-way, is another iron bulkhead, running from deck to spar-deck beams, which is not yet up; but the angle irons are fixed in position between the beams, and also fore and aft angle iron on deck. This bulkhead will form a compartment for coals as well as an additional protection to the engines. This information Mr. Festing procured from one of the working men. The covers of the cylinders, which are perpendicular and two in number, are about level with the spar-deck. The engines, compound, and of a superior character, are now being placed. The wood-work, or weather boarding on ship's side, has been torn away and is being replaced by iron plates five-eighths of an inch thick. The deck amidships fore and aft is being strengthened with iron plates and stout fore and aft beams. The remainder of decks are wood, narrow planking. The only extra machinery visible on board were the steam windlasses for getting up the anchors. They were lying about the forecastle. They were also cutting hatchways on all decks, fore, main, and after, apparently for convenience of ship's company, and have arranged skylights for lighting and ventilating officers' quarters aft. Mr. Festing could not ascertain draft of water, as no marks have yet been placed on either stem or stern. In conclusion, the Lieutenant reports her to be a handsome fast clipper built ship of great length and little beam, lacking appearance of much strength, and believes that guns of heavy calibre would shake her seriously. He thinks also that it will take at least three weeks more to complete her for sea. The workmen are engaged upon her day and night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE CRUMP.

No. 407.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 23.*)

(No. 767. Secret.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 12, 1878.

THE Sultan was kind enough to ask Mrs. Layard and me to spend the afternoon and dine with him yesterday, at Yeldiz. I found His Majesty apparently quite recovered from his recent indisposition, and in fairly good spirits. Both before and after dinner I had long and interesting conversations with him, chiefly upon the condition of his Empire and the reforms that are necessary for the welfare of his people. His Majesty spoke with his usual good sense, and expressed his earnest intention to devote himself to the improvement of his country, and to the introduction of those changes in the administration which alone can effect it, as soon as peace is permanently established and he can occupy himself with the internal affairs of Turkey.

His Majesty observed that two things were urgently required—a thorough reform of the finances and of the administration. He said that he wished to lose no time in carrying out the first. It was impossible that a country could flourish until there was strict economy in the expenditure of public moneys, and the taxes were justly apportioned and honestly collected. He compared his Empire to the condition of the Imperial palaces when he came to the throne. He found them filled with the relations, the women, and the servants of his father and uncle (Abdul Medjid and Abdul Aziz), and even of his grandfather, Sultan Mahmoud. To turn them all away was impossible, but he had gradually reduced the number of the male pensioners and attendants by sending them to their homes in the provinces. He had reduced his own establishment as much as possible, and where formerly ten piastres were spent, now two sufficed. His Majesty gave Mrs. Layard and myself an amusing account of his annual visits to the harems of his predecessors and of the Princes: he was assailed by supplications from a crowd of women, young and old, for presents and pensions. He might, he said, marry off the young, but what could he do with the old? He could not send them away to starve.

His Majesty's statement as to his efforts to introduce economy into his own household are fully justified. He has reduced his establishment within very narrow limits; he lives simply, has none of the extravagant habits and tastes of his predecessors, and has contracted, I believe, no debts; but, on the contrary, has put by money.

His Majesty asked me whether I really believed that the finances of the country

could be restored to a sound condition. I expressed my conviction that they could, but that this must depend upon good and honest government. I pointed out to him that, through the improved administration which had been introduced into Turkey some years previous to the war, there had been already a remarkable increase in the revenue. I observed that there were provinces of his Empire in Asia which were in ancient days rich and flourishing kingdoms, and which now yielded little to the Imperial Treasury. They only required the development of their vast natural resources to be a source of wealth. I instanced the Vilayet of Baghdad, and reminded him that when the celebrated Mehemet Ali Pasha had incurred the displeasure of Sultan Mahmoud by the policy he was pursuing in Egypt, he offered His Majesty to exchange that rich country for the Pashalic of Baghdad.

His Majesty said that he was extremely desirous of developing the great resources of his Asiatic dominions, and of bringing foreign, and especially English, capital into them. He repeated what he had told me on a previous occasion, that before coming to the throne he had thought much on the subject. He spoke of the necessity of a railway from the capital to Baghdad; of the importance of such a railway to England, if it were united with the Syrian coast; of the navigation of the rivers of Mesopotamia; and of other enterprises, describing fully his views regarding them. He remarked that Midhat Pasha had endeavoured to do something in the direction of these improvements, but that he had been too hasty, and had spent a great deal of money without any corresponding results. It had been a misfortune that public works in Turkey had fallen into the hands of foreign speculators, who had only thought of getting subsidies and compensation from the Government, and enriching themselves, without either wishing or being able to carry out the undertakings into which they had entered, or feeling any real interest in their success. His Majesty cited as an instance the Adrianople Railway, adding that he was much opposed to the system of Government subsidies.

His Majesty said that he wished to name a Commission to enter into a thorough examination of the finances, and to make proposals for their reform. He intended to place some competent foreigners upon it, and he again asked me whether Her Majesty's Government would help him to find a person of knowledge and experience to discharge this duty, and whether they would assist him in the other plans that he had formed for the improvement of his Empire. I replied that after peace had been secured and the Congress had finished its labours, I had every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government would not be unwilling to aid His Majesty, as far as they could, in carrying out his wise and generous intentions for the welfare of his people.

His Majesty then observed that without a good administration it was impossible that a country could flourish. Hitherto the administration in Turkey had been very defective. Incompetent persons were named as Governors of provinces, and to inferior but very responsible posts. A class of men should be educated for the discharge of the important duties attached to these offices. He was determined to establish colleges for this purpose, and all appointments to places of power and trust should in future be submitted to him for his approval. He would himself watch the conduct of public functionaries, and reward and promote those who showed themselves worthy of his confidence.

I reminded His Majesty that without a proper and impartial administration of justice no country could flourish, and no people could be contented. I ventured to remark that the most serious evil with which His Majesty had to deal was the absence of proper and honest tribunals, and the corruption and ignorance of those whose duty it was to administer the law. The difficulty of obtaining prompt and equal justice was, I regretted to say, notorious, and was a grievous injury to all classes of his subjects.

His Majesty fully admitted that such was the case, and declared his intention of turning his serious thoughts at once to this important subject. He observed that it was absolutely necessary to educate men to perform the duties of a Judge. He wished to establish a college for this purpose, an "Ecole de Droit." At present there were no qualified persons to send to the provinces to administer the law. Even "ex cathedrâ" might be named to a judicial office. The next thing necessary was a good code. Hitherto attempts had been made to introduce into Turkey the laws of other nations, especially of France, which did not suit a country with a mixed population of different races and creeds. I observed to His Majesty that the same difficulty existed in India, and had been met by the employment of very distinguished and able men, amongst whom was the late Lord Macaulay, as a Commission to frame a code suitable

to the wants of all classes, whilst not interfering with the religious opinions or customs of any as long as they were in conformity with public morality and order.

His Majesty asked me to obtain a copy of our Indian code for him. This I promised to do. I suggested that a similar Commission might be appointed by His Majesty, upon which some distinguished foreigners, especially Englishmen, acquainted with the Mussulman laws and customs, and of Indian experience, might be placed. His Majesty said that he highly approved of the idea.

His Majesty expressed his determination several times to act fully up to the principle which had been laid down in the Constitution which he had given to his people, that no distinction as regards religion was hereafter to be made in the selection of persons for even the highest offices in the State. His Majesty referred to the appointment of Caratheodori Effendi, or Alexander Pasha, as he is now called, to be his first Plenipotentiary at the Congress, as a proof that he was carrying out his promise in this respect. His Majesty added that he was ready to employ even foreigners in important public posts, and that he would be glad to name an Englishman "Mushteshar" of the province of Baghdad. I warmly applauded His Majesty's intention, adding, jokingly, that if I were some years younger I might have applied for the place. His Majesty answered, laughing, that he was ready to make me at once the Governor-General of that province. This idea of having an Englishman as an "adjutan" to the Governor-General of the province of Baghdad had already occurred to me, and I have, I think, submitted it to your Lordship, but I had never mentioned it, as far as I can remember, to the Sultan himself. The suggestion, therefore, appears to be his own.

His Majesty reminded me that I had promised some time ago to put down on paper for him some observations on the subject of the Government of his Empire, and of the development of its resources. He begged me not to forget my promise.

In the course of conversation His Majesty remarked that he was aware that he had been accused of not showing himself more to his people, and of remaining too much within his palace. He admitted, he said, that the complaint was not unfounded; but he could not face the misery that surrounded him on all sides. He could not go out without seeing thousands of starving human beings, his subjects, to whom he could give no relief. The horrible amount of suffering caused by the war had made an impression upon him which he should never get over.

The foregoing is but a very hasty and inadequate summary of a conversation with His Majesty which was carried on, discursively, during a visit of some hours. I have thought it right to send it to your Lordship, as it is but just that Her Majesty's Government should be made acquainted with the excellent natural disposition of His Majesty, his liberal opinions, and the generous intentions with which he is animated for the welfare of his subjects and for the improvement of his Empire. It is greatly to be desired that he may entirely recover from a physical weakness which may prevent him carrying out those intentions, and has occasionally led him to act in a manner that may appear to be in contradiction to them, and may have shaken the confidence of his people in him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 408.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 377. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 13, 1878.*

THE Greek Government have been of late bringing to my notice reported acts of violence on the part of the Turks in Thessaly and Epirus as the cause of the refugees in Greece refusing to return to their homes.

Some time ago M. Delyanni informed me that Turkish soldiers had desecrated a church in a village near Sourpi; then there was a complaint that the Bimbashi of Arnayo was extorting money from refugees as a condition for his escort to them on returning home; and, again, the report that Bashi-Bazouks had entered Radowitz in Epirus with burning brands to destroy the village.

With regard to the first, I have no report except from Greek sources. Mr. Blunt, however, to whom I telegraphed as to the reported conduct of the Bimbashi, telegraphed to me on the 1st instant stating that a letter was in his possession from a

leading refugee declaring the report as to that official to be false, and as having been maliciously fabricated; and the third report as to the state of affairs at Radowitz is reported by Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu, in his despatch No. 29, Political, of the 20th ultimo, to your Lordship, copy of which he has forwarded to me, also to be an invention.

Yesterday M. Coumoundouros, the President of the Council of Ministers, who is acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs during M. Delyanni's absence in Germany, told me that he had received a report that Mr. Longworth, who has been sent to the Arnyro district by Mr. Elliot to see if the promises of the Porte are carried out, had made some arrangements with the Turkish authorities by which Turkish troops were not to pass a certain line, and which was satisfactory to the refugees who were about to return, when Mr. Blunt, accompanied by a Pasha, came and upset the arrangement made by Mr. Longworth, thus preventing the refugees from returning to their homes.

I told M. Coumoundouros that I had no information on the subject of this report, but that I had the day before received a telegram from Mr. Blunt (which I read to him) dated Larissa, the 8th instant, stating that the Sub-Lieutenant of the district of Arnyro reported that on the 6th instant 135 refugee families had returned to their homes in that district. I also said that both from the frontiers of Thessaly and Epirus I heard complaints of the conduct of the Greek officials, who appeared to be endeavouring to prevent the refugees from going to their homes, and I specially mentioned M. Dukas, the Prefect of Acarnania, whose conduct is brought under your Lordship's notice in Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio's reports as to his mission in Acarnania, in which he appears to have displayed much energy and tact, which are transmitted to your Lordship in Sir Charles Scbright's despatch No. 29, Political, of the 20th ultimo, to your Lordship, and in a despatch to me of the 6th instant, copy of which Sir Charles informs me he has transmitted to your Lordship. I also told M. Coumoundouros that, according to my information, neither Mr. Sandwith in Crete, nor Mr. Onofrio in Acarnania, has refused to receive petitions from Christians demanding annexation of Crete and Epirus respectively to Greece. M. Coumoundouros replied that he was most anxious to get rid of the refugees, as they were costing so much money to the State and to the Society of the Red Cross, which was almost at an end of its resources; and with regard to M. Dukas, he said that Photiades Bey had made a complaint which was based upon the levying by that official of an export tax upon cattle belonging to the refugees, but that that had been satisfactorily disposed of.

I saw Photiades Bey yesterday, and I spoke to him on the subject of the refugees. He said he had many complaints which he intended to submit to the Greek Government, and that as to the export tax on their cattle, which the Greek Government had stated they had remitted, it was not the case, as on the return of some peasants to their village the Greek officials had seized fifteen head of cattle as a guarantee for the payment of the tax by that one village alone.

It is needless for me to enter into further details; but, first, the Greek Government have, it appears, enormously exaggerated the number of refugees from Thessaly and Epirus to Greek territory; and, secondly, have endeavoured to prevent their return by holding up to them the savage conduct of the Turks. Their object, it seems to me, is to increase the importance of the late insurrection, and to make out as bad a case as possible against Turkey, and to be able to point during the sitting of the Congress, to the forced stay of the refugees in Greece, owing to their want of confidence in the Ottoman authority. Moreover, I shall not be surprised, if the Congress is unfavourable to the aspirations of the Greeks and they wish to realize them by force of arms, if they take the condition of the refugees (supposing any remain in Greece) as a plea for entering Turkish territory, with a view of escorting them to, and protecting them in, their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 409.

Petition from the Notables of Uskup.

Le 24 Juin, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

LES Soussignés prenant en considération le but philanthropique de la réunion de cé Congrès ont honneur de soumettre ce qui suit:—L'armée Russe, après le passage

du Danube jusqu'à son arrivée à San Stefano, tant sur le théâtre de la guerre ainsi qu'à toutes ses opérations, a saccagé, brûlé nos villes, villages, et les Bulgares ont déshonoré nos femmes, filles, et assassiné nos enfants. Ces actes vandales nous les voyons chaque jour et d'autres parvenant à nos oreilles par les réfugiés qu'avons actuellement dans nos parages. Aucune nation civilisée, ni même les naturels et les cannibales, ces peuplades sauvages vivant aux montagnes, n'accepteraient de commettre pareils crimes et leurs cœurs n'auraient jamais accepté des atrocités sans lit que nos populations, nos villes, villages, femmes, et enfants ont soufert et souffrent encore. C'est un fait sans besoin d'autres témoins, car nous voyons chaque jour arriver, du côté des localités occupées par les Russes, Bulgares, Serbes, et Monténégrins des malheureuses familles se réfugier en masses, seulement avec la chemise, fuyant le déshonneur et leurs tyrans les Russes et les Bulgares. N'avons pas des termes et nos plumes sont pleines du sang des milliers de victimes, de sorte que ne pouvons donner les détails sur les actes vandales et les souffrances affreuses de nos populations et atrocités commisses sur nos femmes, filles, et enfants par les Russes et les Bulgares. C'est pour empêcher des telles atrocités, et pour mettre un terme aux [?] de ces populations que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ne voulant l'écoulement du sang des innocentes créatures, qu'il a été obligé d'accepter et signer le Traité inentendu dans l'histoire des nations, le Traité Préliminaire de San Stefano. Nous mettons sur la haute protection des Gouvernements respectables dont vous êtes les délégués, messieurs, et venons implorer, au nom de l'humanité et en vertu des Traités internationaux et de la civilisation, non seulement présenter et discuter au Congrès notre supplique, mais vouloir bien y mettre un terme à nos souffrances insupportables.

(Suivent les Signatures.)

No. 410.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 608.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 22, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 20th instant, Captain Fife, in telegram to me, corroborates statement as to the Russians having buried ammunition near Rodosto and Chorlu.

No. 411.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 610.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 23, 1878.

IT would now appear certain that provinces south of the Balkans will be restored to the Porte. Such being the case would it not be possible to induce Russians not to attack the so-called insurgents in the Rhodope mountains, who are only defending their lives and property and the honour of their women, and have no wish to descend into the plains to attack the Bulgarians? If they are beaten by the Russians, which must be the case eventually, as they are in great need of arms and ammunition, there would be a terrible massacre of them, and of the vast crowd of fugitives who have taken refuge in the mountains from Russians and Bulgarians. If necessary, I could probably obtain undertaking at once from the insurgents to remain strictly on the defensive, and not to attack the Bulgarians. From the accounts that I receive, the Christians who are in the country are in no way molested or ill-treated. It would make a good impression if we could be instrumental in putting an end to the useless bloodshed now going on. I could communicate indirectly with Mr. St. Clair, who is with the insurgents, and appears to have much influence over them.

No. 412.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 23.*)

(No. 611.) *Therapia, June 23, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have heard nothing to confirm report of the recall of Midhat Pasha, and I do not think that under present circumstances, and considering Sultan's policy towards him, there is any probability of it.

No. 413.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 23.*)

Alexandria, June 23, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I LEARN from a good source that Hussein Pasha, the Viceroy's second son, has telegraphed to Nubar Pasha, to offer him any post he likes to accept in the Ministry.

No. 414.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 24.*)

(No. 766.) *Therapia, June 12, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received a telegram from the Nawab Ekbal ed Dowlah, who formerly had claims to the throne of Oude, and who has long been a pensioner of the British Government, and resides at Baghdad, in which his Highness says that, "although he lives retired, he is a proved and sincere friend of the British Government, and although aged in years, is still young in heart, and prepared to render Her Majesty's Government any service within his power in whatever contest they may have with an enemy faithless to them and also hostile to Islam."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 415.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 24.*)

(No. 34.) *Tunis, June 18, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that, pursuant to instructions transmitted by telegraph from St. Petersburgh, the Russian Consul has resumed his diplomatic relations with the Bey, who received him in audience on the 15th instant, together with the German Consul-General, who was intrusted with the protection of Russian interests during the war between Russia and Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 416.

Mr. Pender to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 24.*)

66, Old Broad Street, June 24, 1878.

Dear Lord Tenterden,

THE inclosed came to hand this morning and may be news to you.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) JOHN PENDER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 416.

M. Vucino to Sir J. Anderson.

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, June 23, 1878.*

HER Majesty's ship "Monarch" arrived afternoon and joined fleet. Turks occupied village of Armenus, massacred lot of women and children. Exasperation.

Inclosure 2 in No. 416.

M. Vucino to Sir J. Anderson.

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, June 23, 1878.*

TURKS with large forces attacked this morning Province of Ipocorona. Fight continues. French man-of-war arrived Suda Bay to relieve "Roland" ordered to Salonica.

No. 417.

Mr. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 24.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June 23, 1878.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Captain Napier, dated Serreko, 19th:—

"Serious dissension regarding succession to chieftainship continues, and portion only of tribe assents to my visit. Condition involves no considerable risk, but will be very adverse to attainment of prescribed object of my mission. In default of reason for haste of paramount importance, delay seems to me advisable. Unless otherwise instructed, I proceed to open negotiation with Akhal, there being no immediate prospect of satisfactory arrangement or of acceptance of Persian Government's terms. I return to Meshed. Communicated to Viceroy."

No. 418.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 24.*)

(No. 613.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 24, 1878.*

MR. CONSUL CALVERT, at Adrianople, informs me that Russian Commissioner is now taking measures to collect the taxes in Roumelia. Notice was given on the 17th instant that one-half of the silk-worm tax was to be paid at once, and the other half in a fortnight; and that the sheep tax is to be paid in three weeks. The tithes are being farmed out, and made payable 25 per cent. in cash and the remainder in three monthly instalments. The crops belonging to Mussulmans are everywhere being reaped and appropriated by the Christians, and the Turkish peasants receive a small payment to gather in their own crops for the Russians.

Calvert further states that there appears still to be a settled resolve to drive out the Mussulmans, and that one village after another is being plundered of its cattle, and the owners killed whenever they offer resistance. Turkish peasants are everywhere told that they must prepare to leave the country. Where fugitives have attempted to return to their homes they have been driven away. In no single instance have their petitions to the Russians been attended to.

No. 419.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 24.*)

(No. 614.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 24, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Captain Fife to-day:—

"Russian Commander at (Rodosto?) orders telegraphic communication with Gallipoli and Constantinople to be stopped from yesterday. It is said owing to news regarding Congress."

No. 420.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 24.*)

(No. 616.) *Therapia, June 24, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FROM Adrianople, under date of 21st instant, Consul reports the Russians to be constructing a military bridge over the Maritza between Demotica and Ouzoun Koupri.

Eighty cannon, collected at camp between Demotica and Maritza, and troops being concentrated there.

Fortifications on a large scale being constructed at Zarim Bourgas between Kutchuk Tchekmedji and Chatalja.

Munitions of war continue to arrive at Adrianople.

Many waggons full of small-arm cartridges arrived on 16th and 20th.

Twenty-four field batteries said to have crossed the Danube *en route* for Adrianople.

Two trains of fifty and twenty-five waggons full of troops went towards Constantinople on the 20th.

Immense quantities of military stores collected at Adrianople.

Defences of Adrianople remain unarmed and unrepaired.

No. 421.

Mr. Cross to the Marquis of Salisbury and Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 24, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

THE following telegram has been forwarded to the Admiralty from Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell, at Gallipoli, dated this day:—

"I have just heard confidentially, by telegraph from Rodosto, that the Russian Commandant at that place will give orders to-morrow morning to cut all telegraph communication between Gallipoli and Constantinople, and further (? crops) are being burnt in the vicinity of the Russian lines. I have informed Commander-in-chief."

No. 422.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 25.*)

(No. 44. Political.) *Beyrout, June 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting my proceedings during a recent journey through the southern districts of the Lebanon, and the consequent arrest and exile to Jerusalem of the Maronite Bishop Butros, whose intrigues against the public peace have been frequently mentioned in my previous despatches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 422.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Beyrout, June 5, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 28th April last, reporting on the intrigues which were being carried on by the Maronite Bishop Butros in the Mixed District of the Lebanon, I mentioned to your Excellency my intention of making a short tour with a view of checking the progress of these intrigues by my presence and influence in that part of the country.

Finding that the agitation caused by the intrigues in question was increasing, I decided to carry out my intention, and on the 17th ultimo I proceeded to Sidon in

Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," as I had the honour to inform your Excellency by telegraph on that date.

During my stay of twenty-four hours at Sidon, several notables, both Christian and Druse, inhabiting the part of the Mountain near that town, called upon me and expressed great anxiety as to what might be the result of the machinations of the Bishop, which they greatly feared, if they were not speedily checked, might involve the southern part of the Lebanon in very serious troubles, and might even be followed by events of the nature of those of 1860. I reassured them that no efforts on my part would be spared to put an effectual stop to these intrigues, and that the Consul-General of France and, I believe, all my other colleagues, were of one mind in discountenancing the proceedings of those who were endeavouring, from personal motives, to create disorders in the Mountain.

As I was on the point of mounting my horse at noon the next day, to ride to the Mountain, the Greek Catholic Bishop of Sidon, in whose diocese is included the southern portion of the Lebanon, was announced, and he earnestly entreated that I would receive him, as, having heard the evening before of my arrival, he had ridden from the country a distance of three hours, expressly to see me. I at once admitted him, and during our interview he entered largely into the subject of the plots which were going on in the Lebanon, and expressed his fears that his community (some members of which I knew were already compromised) might be mixed up in these affairs, though he assured me he had used his utmost endeavours to dissuade the members of his flock from in any way connecting themselves with the present movement, and had thus incurred the enmity of his powerful and vindictive neighbour, the Maronite Bishop, whose vengeance he greatly feared.

He eloquently impressed upon me the necessity of taking immediate steps for arresting the progress of the present agitation, which he foresaw would, if unchecked, lead to most disastrous consequences. I reassured his Eminence in similar language to that which I had employed towards the notables, and at the same time enjoined him to second my efforts for the maintenance of order by using all his influence with his community, which he promised to do.

On my arrival at Jezzin, I was waited upon by a deputation consisting of priests, monks, and lay inhabitants of the place, who, without much preface in the way of the usual compliments of the country, entered upon a long tirade of abuse of Rustem Pasha and his administration, accusing him of having caused the ruin of the Lebanon, with having set aside the Règlement Organique, and ruled despotically, &c. I challenged them to prove in what way his Excellency had exceeded or neglected his duty as Governor-General of Mount Lebanon, in the case of any one present or in the village of Jezzin, but they failed to produce any individual instance of oppression as having occurred to their knowledge. They said, however, that if I would visit the principal villages, either in person or send agents to invite complaints, I should be able to discover innumerable instances of abuse of power on the part of the Pasha.

To this I replied that it was for them to prove their assertions, and not for me to make out their case by searching for evidence; that any well-founded complaints which might be brought to my notice I should be willing to entertain, but that those which I had already seen in the petitions addressed to me and others I considered as unfounded, unworthy of attention, malicious and libellous, if not treasonable. I then entered in detail on the causes of complaint as they were set forth in the various petitions which had come to my knowledge, with most of which they admitted they were acquainted, and I again challenged them to prove any single one of them.

This they never attempted to do, but recommenced abusing Rustem Pasha personally, openly stating that they would never remain quiet until they had secured his dismissal and disgrace, giving me unmistakably to understand that they were, in using this language, obeying the orders of Bishop Butros, who was determined, in spite of all opposition, to attain his object in the removal of the Governor-General. My explanations that his Excellency enjoyed the confidence of the Sublime Porte, of the Powers guaranteeing the Règlement Organique, as well as the firm support of the Consuls-General of these Powers, especially those of France and England, and that I was authorized by my French colleague to speak in his name as well as my own, produced no effect whatever upon them in the way of moderating the abusive tone of their language. I pointed out that it was impossible for them ever to hope to gain their object in spite of the opposition, I might say, of the whole of the Governments of Europe, who had the real interests and general welfare of Mount Lebanon at heart, and that, so far as Her Majesty's Government was concerned, I could most distinctly state that I could never lend, as its Representative, my support to the

intrigues of a clique anxious to promote troubles in order to secure their own personal ends at the expense of the rest of the inhabitants of the country.

Finding that my arguments and statements made no impression upon them, but that they continued to repeat the lesson which had been taught them, I abruptly terminated the interview by telling them that I, as Her Majesty's Representative, could no longer listen to their reiterated personal abuse of their Governor-General, but that I should take good care that the promoter or promoters of these intrigues should suffer severely for the injury he or they were attempting to inflict on the country, which had certainly enjoyed a greater degree of well-being under the administration of Rustem Pasha than ever before during the fifteen years I had been in Syria. As a proof of this, I informed them that the inhabitants of Calmoun had recently petitioned to be annexed to the Lebanon, although, on account of their being Mussulmans, that town was, by the Règlement Organique, expressly detached from the Lebanon, of which it geographically forms part.

Mr. Vice-Consul Abela, who had kindly accompanied me from Sidon to Jezzin, remained at the latter place for some hours after my departure under the pretext of seeking a house in which his family might pass the summer months, but in reality to ascertain what effect my language had produced. He rejoined me at Mukhtara, and reported that he had seen, after I left, a large number of the people of the place who entirely disapproved of the language and conduct of the deputation which waited upon me. He also came in contact with several of the agents of the Bishop, who were all Maronite priests, and they openly admitted to him that they disapproved of the course which was being pursued, but that they were acting under the orders of their superior to agitate the country, as he was determined at any price to rid himself of Rustem Pasha, whom he considered as a personal enemy; and although they were the agents of the Bishop, whom they were bound to obey, yet their own convictions were that if these intrigues were not checked by a strong hand, the country would soon be involved in serious troubles, which would bring ruin alike to all classes of the population.

I spent three days between Mukhtara, Bteddin, Baaklin, and Deir-El-Kamar, during which time I was in contact chiefly with the Druses, being the guest at Mukhtara of the Jumblat family, and at Bteddin of the Druse Kaimakam of the Shouf, and having an intimate personal acquaintance with the inhabitants of this part of the country during fifteen years, I can unhesitatingly say that I have not seen them in such a state of excitement and agitation since 1858.

The Chiefs of the Druses spoke out boldly that the Bishop, Butros, in order to gain his ambitious ends, was promoting these intrigues, but that they, acting under what they knew to be my ideas, had refused to support him in his malicious course of action, though a few Druses of little note or importance might have signed the petitions. The act of these individuals, however, in doing so, was entirely disapproved of by the community at large, who were only anxious that peace should be preserved, and that they might continue to live on terms of harmony with their Christian neighbours; but they greatly feared, unless a stop was put at once to the proceedings of the Bishop, a collision between the young, hot-headed, and unreflecting members of the different communities might occur, as it seemed to them that the intentions of the Bishop were, if he could not otherwise obtain the dismissal of Rustem Pasha, to provoke a collision between the Druses and the Maronites, in the expectation that such an event at least would have the effect of procuring the removal of his Excellency.

The Druses pointed out to me, what I already knew, that it was chiefly through similar intrigues pursued by the Maronite Bishop Zohia, whose most active instrument at the time was Bishop Butros, that the events of 1860 had their origin, but that they, for their own part, could give me the most positive assurance that not the slightest ill-feeling now existed towards their Christian brothers, yet at the same time they added that if an attack instigated by Butros should be made upon any of their people, they, in self-defence, would be obliged to retaliate, though much against their will, as they were anxious to preserve the privileges they enjoyed under the present system of administration, and they were loyal in their expressions of attachment to the person of the present Governor-General, Rustem Pasha.

I assured them that no efforts on my part would be spared in putting an effectual stop to the present intrigues, of which, as the Agent of Her Majesty's Government, I entirely disapproved, and that so long as they, the Druses, were not the instigators of troubles, they might feel convinced that they would continue to enjoy, as heretofore, my good offices; but that if they in any way attempted to promote discord, or to provoke or even countenance disorders, they must not in any way reckon on the interference of Her Majesty's Government to save them from the consequences of their acts, should these be contrary to humanity and public security. I, at the same time, repeated to them that effective measures would be taken to cause the present agitation to cease.

The Chiefs of the Druses, including the two Sheikhs El-Akkal, or Patriarchs, perfectly adhered to my reasonings, and agreed to leave their interests in my hands, provided speedy and effective measures were adopted to put an end to the existing state of affairs.

At Deir-el-Kamar I was waited upon by a considerable deputation, who repeated to me the old grievance of the seat of the administration of the Lebanon being established permanently in their town, which I disposed of with the arguments already reported in my despatch of the 28th April last, and evaded any general discussion on the other grievances under plea of fatigue, nor did they appear inclined to enter upon these topics, as no doubt they were already informed of the opinions I had expressed on these matters, and they were probably aware that their arguments were not likely to produce a favourable impression upon me or induce me to change my views.

From all that I had observed I came to the conclusion that the only effective way to put a stop to the agitation and intrigues that were going on, and to preserve the peace of the Lebanon, would be to bring about the temporary removal from the country of Bishop Butros, who was the sole promoter of them, and by thus striking at the head the whole scheme would die out of itself. Any half measures, such as the arrest of the agents who were going about the country agitating the people, would have, in my opinion, increased the excitement, as for every agent arrested the Bishop would have been able to find two to replace him, and the parties arrested would be represented as martyrs to the tyranny of the Governor-General.

This step, too, of removing the Bishop would have the effect of greatly reducing the power and arrogance of the Maronite clergy, who have ever considered themselves above the law, and denied the right of the administrative authorities to interfere with their proceedings.

They have, moreover, assumed that they possessed the right of dictating to the civil authorities and of constantly exercising their influence over the members of the Tribunals in the administration of justice. In one of the numerous petitions that have been circulated, a claim was set up that the members of the Tribunals should be elected by the people and religious Chiefs, instead of by the Sheikhs and Mukhtars of the villages, as is enjoined in the Règlement Organique. I need hardly say that were this suggestion to be adopted, the Tribunals would be composed of the creatures of the clergy, who would decide in all cases according to the wishes and dictates of the Bishops, in whose hands the administration of justice would be virtually vested, which would certainly not be to the general interest or well-being of the Lebanese.

The day after my return to Beyrout, his Excellency Rustem Pasha and M. Guys, my French colleague, met at my house, and I explained to them what I had observed and what I had said to the different people with whom I had come in contact during my journey, and of the conclusions I had come to, with all of which they expressed their satisfaction and concurrence, and we agreed to telegraph simultaneously to Constantinople that the best means to put a stop to the present agitation would be the temporary removal of the Bishop, in which sense I telegraphed to your Excellency on the morning of the 25th ultimo.

Rustem Pasha called on my colleagues of Austria, Germany, and Italy, and explained to them the important step which we had thought it incumbent upon us to take; and upon these gentlemen paying me, on the 25th ultimo, the customary visit of ceremony in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, they informed me that they had seen the Governor-General, and generally concurred in the course we had adopted, though, owing to the presence of a number of other people in the room at the time, I was unable to give them any details or to discuss the matter with them. My German colleague, however, called upon me the next morning, and to him I explained fully all the circumstances, and he requested me, being unable to communicate by telegraph otherwise than *en clair*, to telegraph to your Excellency to beg of you to inform the German Ambassador that he adhered to what had been done, which I accordingly did.

On the morning of the 31st ultimo the Governor-General received orders from the Sublime Porte for the expulsion of the Bishop from the Lebanon, and to cause him to be conducted to Jerusalem, which was assigned to him as his residence. On the receipt of these orders his Excellency did me the honour of calling upon me to consult me as to the most effective way to put them into execution so as to prevent the possibility of

any disturbance taking place: but I was unfortunately suffering at the time such acute pain from neuralgia, caught during my journey, as to be unable to receive his Excellency, who, however, took immediate steps to secure the person of the Bishop by sending a force consisting of 100 dragoons and 400 men of the Lebanon militia to Bteddin, the residence of the Bishop, in order to effect his arrest.

The arrangements were so promptly carried out, that, at 5 A.M. on the morning of the 1st, the house of the Bishop was surrounded, and the orders of the Porte communicated to him, before he had received intelligence that such a step against him was being prepared, and it fell like a thunderbolt upon him, as no measures of such severity had ever before been taken against a dignitary of the Church, and he had felt himself safe from all administrative pursuit in virtue of his ecclesiastical character.

On the order of the Porte, with that of the Governor-General, being shown to him, he signified his readiness to obey, but requested a delay of three days, and that he might be allowed to go to Jaffa by sea. This request was transmitted by telegraph to Rustem Pasha, who, however, declined to grant it, as the orders of the Porte were energetically expressed, and admitted of no delay; he therefore sent orders for the Bishop to leave immediately, and he accordingly started from Bteddin at 11 A.M. for Sidon, where he arrived that evening, and has since proceeded to Tyre, *en route* for Jerusalem, under the escort of a Maronite officer and two men of the Lebanon militia, and accompanied by fifty dragoons, as a safeguard against any attempt at a rescue. Instructions were given that all possible respect and consideration should be shown to the Bishop during the journey, and he is accompanied by the surgeon of the dragoons, a Pole, and graduate of the University of Vienna, who is considered as one of the most able physicians in this country.

In consequence of the secrecy with which this affair was managed, and the large force sent by the Governor-General, not the slightest disturbance occurred, nor was there any attempt at resistance. The Bishop and his adherents were paralyzed by this most unexpected and severe blow. I feel, however, convinced that, had the Bishop got wind of what was going on, or had the force sent been less imposing, an effort to resist would have been made which might have lead to very serious troubles. I therefore venture to express my hearty approval of the measures adopted by Rustem Pasha, which were distinguished by energy and prudence; and I may safely say that neither of his predecessors would have had the nerve to carry out such a bold step.

There then followed the arrest of a few of the most active of the Bishop's agents, whom I advised the Governor-General to liberate, after their chief has reached his destination and when the agitation dies out, as I have no doubt it speedily will do, taking, however, substantial guarantees for their good behaviour in future.

It is yet too early to judge of the effect of this stroke of State, which has produced great consternation amongst the Maronites, especially amongst the clergy and those who are governed by them, as they see that the almost overwhelming influence hitherto exercised by the priesthood has received a severe check from which it is not likely soon to recover, as it is to be hoped it never will do.

The more reasonable and independent among the sect seem pleased at what has occurred, as they have frequently, and with reason, complained of the overbearing conduct of their clergy, who interfere in all their domestic affairs, and, by working upon the superstitious fears of the sick and dying, have secured to themselves a very large proportion of the property of the Lebanon which originally belonged to the old and wealthy families of the Maronite Emirs and Sheikhs, many of the members of which are now literally reduced to a state of absolute beggary, while they see the possessions of their ancestors enjoyed by an arrogant priesthood who are not in the habit of exercising the rites of charity towards the descendants of those whose ancestors they have despoiled.

Since I commenced writing this despatch, I have seen my colleagues of Austria, France, Germany, and Italy, and they all assured me that they approve entirely of the step that has been taken, and the manner in which it has been carried out; and they expressed their conviction that it cannot fail to produce a most beneficial effect upon the inhabitants of the Mountain.

My French colleague informed me that, in order to save appearances, he sent a confidential agent to inform the Maronite Patriarch that severe measures were in contemplation against the Bishop Hoteys, and advising that he should be removed immediately from the mixed district to some place in the north of the Kesrouan, which would render unnecessary the steps which were meditated.

The Patriarch remained in consultation with his suffragan Bishops for five days without coming to any decision as to what should be done, when they were thunder-

struck by the receipt of intelligence that the Bishop Hoteys was arrested and on his way to Jerusalem.

I could give your Excellency a great many more details on this subject, but I trust you will consider that I have said enough to make the situation clear; and I shall continue to report any further circumstances which may arise in connection with this matter.

I must apologize for not having reported my proceedings in the Mountains by a previous mail, but after my return I suffered from a bad attack of neuralgia, brought on by the severe cold I experienced in the elevated regions I visited, which quite incapacitated me from continuous application for several days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 423.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 25.*)

(No. 47. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, June 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch, and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting certain petitions containing complaints against the Governor-General of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 423.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Beyrout, June 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th ultimo, reporting on the petitions which have been in circulation for signature in Mount Lebanon, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a Memorandum in which the principal subjects of complaint contained in these petitions are dealt with and explained.

This document emanates from the offices of the Governor-General, but its statements and arguments are so fairly made, that I adopt it in its entirety as a reply to the various grievances complained, and as enabling your Excellency to understand more fully their nature.

There are certain other subjects of complaint contained in these petitions; but they are of such a frivolous, and in some instances even scandalous, nature as to be unworthy of remark or attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 423.

Observations touchant les Points de la Requête que l'on essaie de faire Cacheter dans quelques Cantons du Chouf et de Djézzin.

1. *Division du Tribunal Judiciaire Supérieur en deux Chambres.*

LE Tribunal Judiciaire Supérieur était composé de six Juges choisis par les six communautés qui habitent le Liban. Ce Tribunal jugeait à la fois au civil et au criminel, et était insuffisant pour s'acquitter à la fois de cette double tâche.

En 1876, et à la suite de nombreuses requêtes se plaignant du retard que subissaient les affaires référées au Tribunal Supérieur, le Gouverneur-Général proposa à la Sublime Porte la création d'une seconde Chambre constituée exactement sur le modèle de la première, c'est-à-dire composée de six Juges choisis dans

les six communautés qui s'occuperaient des affaires civiles, afin que la première pût réserver tout son temps à l'examen et au jugement des causes criminelles. Le Gouverneur-Général faisait observer que cette réforme utile pouvait être accomplie sans augmentation de frais, et cela par la suppression d'un Bureau d'Enquête qui était chargé de l'examen préparatoire des causes criminelles et faisait double emploi avec le Tribunal Supérieur pour ce genre de causes, et ensuite par l'élimination de quelques employés inutiles. Quelque temps après, sur le rapport favorable de la Haute Cour de Justice et du Grand Conseil, la Sublime Porte autorisa la formation de la seconde Chambre.

Il est difficile de concevoir en quoi la création de cette seconde Chambre d'un même Tribunal peut constituer un grief. Qu'il soit traduit devant l'ancien Tribunal Judiciaire ou devant une des Chambres du Tribunal Supérieur actuel, l'inculpé sur lequel pèse une accusation criminelle ou le défendeur en matière civile est, dans l'un comme dans l'autre cas, jugé par des magistrats appartenant aux six communautés de la Montagne. Il n'y a donc, sous ce rapport, aucune différence entre l'ancien système et le nouveau. Quant à l'avantage obtenu, il consiste en ceci, que les affaires civiles aussi bien que criminelles, qui jadis subissaient des retards infinis, marchent aujourd'hui avec plus de régularité et de promptitude. Les choses ne sont certainement pas ce qu'elles devraient être, mais il y a un incontestable progrès.

2. *Employés Etrangers au Liban.*

Ces employés sont au nombre de six ou sept et comprennent le Directeur de la Comptabilité, qui appartient au Département des Finances; celui de la Correspondance Etrangère qui fait partie du personnel du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, d'un Secrétaire interprète, originaire de Beyrouth, qui remplit ces fonctions depuis neuf ou dix, et qui jouit incontestablement de l'estime générale; de deux commis Damasquin et Chypriote employés au Bureau de la Correspondance Turque, d'un ingénieur d'origine Autrichienne et d'un chef de musique Italien.

Le Règlement ne dit pas que le Gouverneur-Général soit tenu de choisir tous ses employés, sans exception, dans le Liban. Il est à remarquer, en outre, que presque tous les employés énumérés plus haut remplissent des charges qui exigent des aptitudes et des connaissances spéciales et pour les quelles le Liban ne pourrait pas fournir de bons sujets. Il est impossible de trouver dans le Liban, par exemple, soit un ingénieur, soit des rédacteurs, pour la langue Turque. L'unique Libanais qui sache écrire le Turc, est Chef de Bureau. Du reste, du temps des précédents Gouverneurs-Généraux, le nombre des employés étrangers au Liban était plus considérable qu'il ne l'est aujourd'hui. Sans parler de la Mission Militaire Française qui a longtemps résidé dans le pays, Daoud Pacha et Franco Pacha ont eu à leur service des chefs de bureau, des commis, des ingénieurs et des médecins qui étaient ou fonctionnaires de la Sublime Porte ou étrangers.

Les appointements de ces employés, loin d'être exhorbitants, sont d'une modicité remarquable. Les principaux employés du Liban sont moins payés que ne le sont les employés ordinaires des établissements financiers et industriels du pays, tels que, par exemple, ceux de la Banque Ottomane, de la Compagnie de la Route de Damas ou de la Compagnie des Eaux.

3. *Ingérence dans les Affaires des Tribunaux.*

Révocation de quelques Juges.

Il est inexact de dire, comme le prétend la requête, que le chef de l'autorité exécutive intervient dans le détail des procès. De temps à autre, et le plus souvent pour demander des éclaircissements sur des plaintes qui lui sont présentées, le Gouverneur-Général voit les Presidents de l'une ou l'autre Cour, et dans de rares circonstances il interroge le Tribunal en corps; mais les observations qu'il croit devoir soumettre à l'appréciation du Tribunal, tendent toujours à la stricte exécution de la loi, et les Juges restent libres en dernier ressort de prendre la décision qui leur paraît la plus convenable.

Quant à la révocation des Juges, le Gouverneur-Général, lorsqu'il a recours à cette mesure, use d'un droit que le Règlement lui attribue. Il n'en a jamais usé, du reste, qu'avec prudence et mesure, et lorsque les intérêts de la justice lui ont paru

le lui commander. L'expérience a malheureusement fait voir que, dans l'exercice de leurs importantes fonctions, les Juges obéissent souvent à d'autres mobiles que ceux de la stricte équité, et le pouvoir de révocation placé entre les mains du Gouverneur-Général est peut-être le seul frein à l'aide duquel il soit possible de les retenir dans les limites du devoir. A ce propos quelques observations sur la manière dont les causes sont entendues devant les Tribunaux de la Montagne, ne seront peut-être pas considerées comme superflues.

Le Règlement du Liban est basé sur le principe de la division et l'équilibre des communautés. Dans la pratique, ce principe a été poussé à l'extrême, et il en résulte que dans tout acte public, soit administratif, soit judiciaire, dans lequel un employé du Liban est appelé à jouer un rôle, il cherchera avant toute chose, à faire prédominer dans la mesure du possible, l'intérêt de son rite. Qu'un individu, défendeur ou inculpé, comparaisse devant un Tribunal du Liban, il est assuré de prime abord, de trouver un avocat passionné dans le Juge de la communauté à laquelle il appartient, et ce Juge déploiera tous ses efforts pour lui faire gagner le procès, s'il s'agit d'une cause civile, et s'il s'agit d'une cause criminelle, pour obtenir son acquittement, ou tout ou moins, pour faire mitiger, autant que possible, le châtiment légal qu'il a encouru. Le Juge de la partie adverse fera preuve, en faveur de son coreligionnaire, d'un zèle non moins actif, et celui des deux magistrats, qui aura eu l'habileté d'attirer à lui la majorité des Juges intermédiaires, aura gain de cause.

Il y a quelque temps la communauté Protestante avait fait des démarches pour solliciter le droit de faire siéger dans les Tribunaux Supérieurs un Juge permanent au lieu du Juge temporaire que le Règlement lui attribue lorsque l'on a à examiner une affaire dans laquelle un intérêt Protestant est engagé, et elle faisait valoir avec naïveté cet argument, que le Juge Protestant, ne siégeant que dans les causes Protestantes, n'était pas à même de se rendre utile aux autres Juges dans le procès où ceux-ci avaient intérêt; qu'aucun d'eux, par conséquent, ne pouvait prendre intérêt aux rares affaires de ses coreligionnaires, et qu'à cause de cela, il perdait généralement ses procès. On demandait donc que le Juge Protestant fût mis en mesure de pouvoir rendre des services aux autres Juges, afin d'avoir le droit d'en réclamer d'eux en cas de besoin.

Avec un pareil système de compensation et de service réciproques, la déplorable habitude de prêter l'oreille aux recommendations du dehors, et surtout avec l'influence exercée par le haut clergé sur les Juges de leur communauté, les droits de la justice et de l'équité ne se trouvent que trop souvent compromis. Il en résulte que le Gouverneur-Général a le devoir de surveiller, dans une certaine mesure, la conduite des Juges, principalement en ce qui concerne la marche des affaires criminelles, et ce devoir ne représente pas la partie la moins ingrate de sa tâche. Cette surveillance et ce contrôle ne peuvent être exercés que si le Juge, qui tient son emploi du Gouverneur-Général, a la conscience que cet emploi peut lui être retiré, s'il ne concilie pas, au moins dans une certaine mesure, les sentiments qui le font pencher vers les intérêts de sa communauté avec les exigences de la justice abstraite. On peut sans hésitation prédire que si l'on enlevait ce frein salutaire, les Tribunaux tomberaient rapidement dans un état complet de confusion et d'anarchie, au grand détriment des intérêts de l'Etat et de ceux des particuliers.

4. *Défenseurs d'Office.*

Eloignement des Avocats de Métier.

La charge de defenseur d'office a été supprimée longtemps avant l'arrivée au Liban du Gouverneur-Général actuel. D'après les informations recueillies, cette mesure aurait été prise sous l'administration du Daoud Pacha ou de Franco Pacha, à la suite d'une entente avec la Porte, en conséquence des graves inconvénients que la présence de ces individus avait révélés dans la pratique.

Quant aux Avocats de Métier, les individus qui, sous cette dénomination, encombrent les abords des Tribunaux et des Bureaux de l'Administration, ne sont pas, en réalité, des Avocats. Ce sont de petits procureurs intrigants et retors qui ont acquis par la pratique non pas la connaissance de la loi, mais celle de tous les procédés de mauvaise foi qui peuvent être mis en œuvre pour embrouiller une affaire, et en faire retarder indéfiniment la solution. Feu Franco Pacha avait sollicité et obtenu de la Sublime Porte l'autorisation d'éloigner cette classe de gens,

mais sous l'administration du Gouverneur actuel ils avaient commencé à reparaître et représentaient une vengeance dont les Tribunaux étaient les premiers à se plaindre. Rustem Pacha a donc jugé convenable de remettre en vigueur la mesure que son prédécesseur avait décrétée. Du reste, la Circulaire qui a été adressée aux Tribunaux à ce sujet leur laisse la plus grande latitude pour agréer les procurations de gens honnêtes, et elle ne les autorise à interdire l'accès du Tribunal qu'aux petits Avocats de Métier, qui se sont déjà rendus notoires par leur mauvaise foi et leurs intrigues.

Au siége même de l'Administration Centrale les faits suivants ont été constatés durant les quelques jours qui ont précédé la remise en vigueur de la mesure. Un de ces soi-disant avocats qui avait en mains une cause civile importante—il s'agissait d'un droit d'irrigation contesté entre un village et des Emirs Druses—a vendu à la partie adverse les droits de ses clients, et il leur aurait, par sa conduite devant la Chambre, volontairement fait perdre la cause qu'il était chargé de défendre, si son mandat ne lui avait été retiré en temps opportun. Un autre a extorqué à une dame Chehab, pour compte de laquelle il avait opéré la vente de quelques propriétés dont la valeur s'élevait à 16,000 piastres, la somme de 5,000 piastres, c'est-à-dire, environ le tiers de la somme en jeu. Ce même individu a retardé durant trois ans l'enregistrement d'un acte de vente, pour lequel il était procureur, parce que l'acheteur n'a pas voulu lui donner au dernier moment un cadeau de 4,000 piastres, dont, du reste, sa cliente, une autre dame Chehab, devait faire les frais. Ces faits, et beaucoup d'autres de même nature, dont l'énumération serait monotone, ont été prouvés; et quelques-uns donnent même lieu, en ce moment, à des procès en revendication devant les tribunaux.

5. *Affaire de Moiséra.*

La question de Moiséra a été soulevé à Constantinople par feu Rachid Pacha, ancien Gouverneur-Général de Syrie, à l'époque où il occupait la charge de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. Elle a donné lieu à de longs pourparlers entre les Ambassades et lui. Enfin de compte, la Sublime Porte a donné l'ordre au Gouverneur-Général du Liban de ne plus exercer de juridiction sur le territoire de Moiséra. Les Consuls-Généraux de Beyrout ont, du reste, une entière connaissance de ce qui s'est passé à cette époque, ayant été eux-mêmes mêlés aux négociations. Ce que l'on désigne sous le nom de Moiséra sont des vergers d'oliviers; ces vergers appartiennent en totalité aux Tripolitains, et depuis l'époque de Daoud Pacha, ils ont refusé d'en payer l'impôt à la Montagne. Chaque année, néanmoins, le Conseil Administratif répartit sur le territoire de Moiséra une portion de l'impôt du Liban, et cet impôt qui n'est jamais encaissé, figure à la fin de l'exercice au chapitre des arriérés. Cette année le Gouverneur-Général ayant remarqué que le Conseil Administratif avait encore agi de la même manière, lui a fait remarquer qu'il était inutile d'opérer sur le territoire de Moiséra la répartition d'une soixantaine de mille piastres que l'on n'encaissait pas et que cela diminuait d'autant les ressources du pays; mais il n'a pas été tenu compte de cette observation, et l'impôt des oliviers de Moiséra a été de nouveau inscrit sur le Budget actif du Liban, et comme faisant partie de ses ressources, quoique depuis dix à douze ans cela eût cessé d'être le cas.

6. *Revenus dits "Mahmoulats."*

Les Mahmoulats sont des revenus d'octroi. Quelques individus voudraient que ces revenus, dont le chiffre est, d'ailleurs, pas considérable, fussent diminués chaque année de l'impôt total des 7,000 bourses, tandis que leur emploi naturel, comme celui de tous les revenus d'octroi, doit être l'amélioration des voies de communication dans le pays. Le Conseil Administratif emploie une partie de ces revenus à corriger quelques erreurs de cadastre; l'autre partie est consacrée à la réparation de routes, de ponts, et à d'autres travaux d'utilité générale. Aucune portion de ces Mahmoulats n'est, du reste, dépensée sans l'approbation préalable du Conseil Administratif, constatée par Masbata.

7. *Zaptiés qui mettraient les Habitants à Contribution.*

Droits perçus par les Tribunaux.

DEPUIS son arrivée dans le pays, le Gouverneur-Général actuel a apporté un soin tout particulier à combattre et à reprimer les abus de ce genre. Il a aboli la coutume des garnisaires pour l'encaissement des créances, qui, jusqu'à son époque, s'était maintenue, quoique, depuis lors, l'expérience eut démontré qu'il était difficile dans certains cas de la remplacer par des mesures ayant la même efficacité; par exemple, lorsqu'il s'agit de prêtres et de femmes auquels on hésite à cause de leur caractère, à appliquer la peine de l'emprisonnement. Il a été positivement interdit aux zaptiés en mission de prélever quoique ce soit sur les habitants en fait de vivres et de fourrages, et toutes les fois qu'un fait de ce genre a été porté à la connaissance de l'autorité, le zaptié coupable a été très-sévèrement puni et ensuite renvoyé du service. Si quelques faits isolés de cette nature se produisent encore de temps à autre, dans un district éloigné, et s'ils demeurent impunis, c'est qu'ils ne sont pas dénoncés, et que, par conséquent, l'autorité les ignore.

Les droits judiciaires perçus dans le Liban sont: 1 pour cent de droit de sentence qui est porté au compte du Trésor Impérial; 1½ pour cent de frais d'exécution ou d'encaissement qui est attribué au Caïmacam ou au Mudir qui donne une solution à l'affaire. Cette perception est conforme à la loi. Jadis un droit d'encaissement était perçu par les soins du Bureau de la Correspondance Etrangère qui a en mains les affaires de contentieux, pour toutes les affaires terminées au siége de l'Administration Centrale; mais Rustem Pacha a aboli cet usage, il y a cinq ans, lors de son arrivée dans le pays, et depuis cette époque aucun droit d'encaissement n'a été perçu sur les affaires examinées et terminées par les Bureaux de l'Administration Centrale.

Prétendre que des droits sont payés au Pacha, au mépris du Règlement, est donc une calomnie.

8. *Entraves apportées à la Circulation du Tabac.*

Lorsque le monopole du tabac a été introduit dans le système général des lois de l'Empire, le Gouverneur-Général du Liban reçut l'ordre de mettre à exécution dans la province qu'il administrait, les mesures édictées pour rendre ce monopole efficace. Certaines considérations firent penser au Gouverneur-Général que l'application de ce monopole dans le Liban ne serait pas opportun; il pria la Sublime Porte d'y renoncer. Le Gouvernement Impérial opposa aux sollicitations de Rustem Pacha une résistance prolongée; il n'avait aucun désir, disait-il, de bénéficier sur la consommation du tabac dans le Liban, mais il soutenait, et non sans raison, que le monopole serait inapplicable en Syrie tant que le Liban, qui est productif de tabac par excellence, en serait exempté. Après cinq mois d'efforts, Rustem Pacha, qui se trouvait alors à Constantinople, obtint de la Sublime Porte que les Règlements du tabac ne seraient pas appliqués dans le Liban qui continuerait à jouir, comme par le passé, d'une liberté complète de production et de consommation, mais à la condition que tout le tabac exporté, ainsi que celui introduit dans le vilayet, paierait les droits Règlementaires de monopole. Le Pacha s'engagea en outre à faire tout ce qui serait possible pour empêcher la contrebande entre le Liban et les villes du littoral.

C'est en vue de remplir cet engagement que le Gouverneur-Général a placé des gardes aux environs des villes de Beyrouth, de Tripoli et de Saydá; mais malgré tous les efforts qu'il déploie, la contrebande continue à s'exercer sur une grande échelle. Ces dispositions ne peuvent mécontenter, du reste, que les gens qui veulent faire de la contrebande; car, dans l'intérieur du Liban, la production et la consommation du tabac continuent, comme auparavant, à être libres de toute entrave.

9. *Lettres Visirielles dont le Conseil Administratif n'a pas eu connaissance.*

Droits sur les Barques à Djounié.

Les attributions du Conseil Administratif sont parfaitement définies par le seconde paragraphe de l'Article II du Règlement. "Le Conseil," dit cet Article, "repartit l'impôt, contrôle la gestion des revenus et des dépenses, et donne son avis consultatif sur toutes les questions qui lui sont posées par le Gouverneur-Général. Le Pacha n'est donc nullement tenu de soumettre au Conseil sa correspondance avec la Porte." Tel est le point de droit.

Quant au point de fait, le Pacha ne sache pas avoir jamais soustrait à la connaissance du Conseil des décisions de la Porte ayant un caractère d'intérêt général pour le pays. Il ignore avoir reçu un ordre Visiriel prescrivant de ne plus percevoir des droits sur les barques construites à Djounié. Le Liban n'a jamais perçu

des droits de ce genre. La Direction des Douanes a des agents dans toutes les échelles de l'Empire, et elle perçoit directement par son entremise et en vertu de ses Règlements spéciaux, les droits que les petits bâtiments qui appartiennent à ce port peuvent avoir à acquitter. Le Liban n'y intervient en aucune façon.

Les paragraphes suivants accusent le Pacha d'opprimer les innocents, de faire preuve d'immoralité, de ne pas être Chrétien, mais Musulman, &c. Ce sont des calomnies puériles et ridicules, et qui ne méritent pas la peine d'être discutées. Deux faits seulement sont articulés: la mise en liberté d'un Druse, porteur de bijoux; la destitution de Cheiks de village qui avaient apposé leurs cachets officiels sur des requêtes.

Il y a deux ans environ un Druse, portant un petit sac d'objets en argent, a été arrêté comme suspect et amené au siége de l'Administration. Ce Druse prouva qu'il venait du Hourau, et affirma qu'il se rendait à Beyrouth pour réaliser la valeur des objets dont il était porteur, et dont il faisait le commerce. Les objets étaient des bijoux Druses, tels que sachets en argent pour amulettes et bracelets communs; il n'y avait dans le nombre aucun emblème Chrétien. Rien ne put faire soupçonner que ces objets étaient le produit d'un vol; personne ne porta plainte; l'individu n'était pas armé. Aucune présumption de mauvaise foi n'existait à sa charge, et il fut naturellement relaché.

Les Cheiks de village et les Moukhtars reçoivent, lors de leur nomination, un cachet officiel, qui ne porte pas leur nom, et dont l'empreinte n'indique que leur qualité et le nom du village. Les Cheiks faisaient, de temps à autre, un usage irrégulier de ce cachet, et par une circulaire, dont la date remonte déjà à quelque temps, les Caïmacans ont été invités à faire comprendre aux Cheiks que les cachets officiels ne devaient être apposés que sur les documents qu'ils étaient appelés à délivrer en qualité de Cheiks; dans toutes autres circonstances ils devaient se servir de leurs cachets particuliers. Dernièrement quatre Cheiks et Mouktars, qui avaient apposé leurs cachets officiels sur une requête que l'on avait fait circuler dans le canton de Barouk, ont été traduits devant le Conseil Administratif, et, en vertu d'un mashata renvin par ce corps, révoqués de leurs fonctions pour avoir fait un usage abusif de leur cachet officiel; leur interrogatoire devant le Conseil a été tout à la fois édifiant et instructif; ils ont déclaré naïvement qu'ils ne savaient pas trop ce dont il s'agissait, et que leurs cachets avaient été apposés par eux-mêmes, ou par leurs femmes en leur absence, sur une quantité de requêtes qui avaient été apportées par des curés, et dont ils ne connaissaient pas le contenu. Personne n'ignore quelle est la source des intriques que l'on cherche, depuis quelque temps, à surdir dans cette partie du pays; les déclarations de ces gens, devant l'autorité compétente, confirment par une preuve nouvelle ce que l'on savait déjà.

No. 424.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 48. Political.)

Beyrout, June 10, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the impression produced by the removal of the Maronite Bishop Butros Bistany from the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 424.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Beyrout, June 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the removal of Bishop Butros from the Lebanon, reported in my despatch of the 5th instant, has created a profound impression upon the Maronite Patriarch, clergy, and people, who pretend to

see in this necessary measure a blow aimed at their prestige in the Lebanon in favour of the Druses and other sects. I am told that many of the village priests have closed their churches and have gone to Bkirké, the residence of the Patriarch.

Many, however, of the more liberal-minded amongst the Maronites heartily approve of the measure as likely to decrease in some degree the arrogance of their priesthood, and all the other inhabitants of the Lebanon express the greatest satisfaction at what has been done as being the most effective step to preserve the tranquillity of the country.

Last week the Maronite Bishops Naamthalah, Dahda, and Hanna el Hage were sent to Beyrout by the Patriarch to endeavour to persuade the Governor-General and the Consuls-General to apply for the return of Bishop Butros. At the interview I had with these gentlemen I explained to them my conviction, from what I had observed during my recent tour, that the removal of the Bishop Butros was absolutely necessary for the well-being of the country, and that I should consider his immediate return as dangerous to the public peace, though, should everything remain quiet, as I hoped would be the case, I saw no objection to his returning to the northern part of the Mountain, but not to the Shouf, after a few months' residence at Jerusalem. I strongly advised them to calm the present agitation, which could do no good, and counselled them to accept the accomplished fact which, at least so far as I was concerned, was in no way directed against the Maronites in general, though they appear to have put that signification upon it, but it was simply directed against Bistany personally, on account of his well known intrigues. As a proof what I said, I offered, provided they followed my advice, to pay a visit to the Patriarch at Bkirké; this proposal seemed to give them much pleasure, and they said they would submit it to the Patriarch with my observations on their return, which was to take place yesterday or to-day.

Several petitions have been addressed to the Sublime Porte during the last few weeks, protesting loyalty and devotion, denying all connection with recent intrigues, and demanding the punishment of the promoters of them. These petitions, some of which have been sent directly and by telegraph to Constantinople, number about sixteen or seventeen, and they are signed by the spiritual heads of the non-Maronite sects and by all the principal inhabitants, including the Maronites of the different districts of the Lebanon, while the petitions against the administration of Rustom Pasha only bore the seals of a few dismissed functionaries and a small number of insignificant or entirely unknown individuals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 425.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 49. Political.)

Beyrout, June 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a further despatch, and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the arrest and exile of the Maronite Bishop, Butros Bistany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 425.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Beyrout, June 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's more complete information, copies of the official reports addressed to his Excellency the Governor-General of the Lebanon by the two Colonels who were recently charged to effect the arrest and removal from the Lebanon of the Maronite Bishop, Butros Bistany.

I also transmit a copy of a Memorandum on the former position of the Maronite clergy in the Lebanon, which shows that the privileges now claimed by them are of

quite recent growth, and have no foundation either in ancient usages, nor are they justified by any special Firmans emanating from the Imperial Government; but advantage has been taken of circumstances by the clergy to assume a position independent of the authorities, to which I do not consider they are legally entitled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 425.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel Monasterski Bey.

Beyrout, le $\frac{29\ Mai}{11\ Juin}$ 1878.

Excellence,

CHARGÉ par votre Excellence d'assister le Colonel de Gendarmerie Libanaise, Selim Bey, dans le renvoi de Beït-Eddin à Jérusalem de l'Evêque Maronite, Monsigneur Boutros Bastani, de l'appuyer en cas de besoin, et de faire escorter par les dragons le dit Evêque au lieu de son exil, je suis arrivé Samedi, au point du jour, à la tête de 100 dragons, à Beit-Eddin; j'ai fait prendre les armes à la garnison et rejoint par le Colonel Selim Bey et la Gendarmerie Libanaise, nous nous sommes rendus immédiatement à la résidence de l'Evêque, Monsigneur Boutros; après l'avoir cerné par les soldats, je suis entré en compagnie de Selim Bey, du Capitaine des Dragons, Czernicecki, et du Capitaine de la Gendarmerie, Mir Melhem, à la maison toute ouverte—étant sans portés—où Selim Bey a ordonné au premier domestique rencontré d'aller éveiller le prêtre Michel, attaché à la personne de l'Evêque, qui, arrivé aussitôt, nous a déclaré que l'Evêque ne se trouve pas, étant parti la veille soir pour Beyrout; comme cela était improbable (car nous l'aurions rencontré en chemin) nous avons demandé à visiter la maison en commençant par la chambre à coucher, pour nous assurer si réellement l'Evêque y a passé ou non la nuit. Sommé de nous montrer la chambre, le prêtre nous a demandé quelques moments, est entré dans cette chambre, et, en revenant, nous a dit que l'Evêque y est, qu'il vient de se reveiller, et qu'il veut voir Selim Bey. Selim Bey après une courte entrevue nous a fait entrer au salon où l'Evêque devait nous rejoindre aussitôt habillé, et réellement, Monsigneur Boutros, avisé peu de temps après, a désiré voir les ordres le concernant. Selim Bey lui a alors montré l'ordre qu'il avait reçu de votre Excellence. Après avoir lu, l'Evêque a dit, "qu'en voyant que c'est en vertu de l'ordre Grand Viziriel et non de celui de Rustem Pacha qu'il est exilé, il se soumet, mais il demande trois jours de délai pour régler les affaires, et qu'il demande de faire le voyage par mer. Je lui ai proposé de s'adresser directement à votre Excellence, car nous n'avons pas le pouvoir d'accorder sa demande; il a refusé de le faire, mais il a insisté à ce que Selim Bey fasse parvenir cette demande à votre Excellence. Ce qu'il a fait, quoique nous étions sûrs du refus, vu les ordres Grands Viziriels recommandant la prompte exécution, mais d'un autre côté nous savions que la réponse viendra dans peu de temps, et je voulais profiter de ce répit pour faire reposer, quoique un peu, les hommes et les chevaux qui ont marché toute la nuit et devaient encore fournir une longue traite de Beït-Eddin à Saïda.

Mais lorsque la réponse négative de la part de votre Excellence est venue, surtout lorsque j'ai reçue d'elle une dépêche directe m'ordonnant le départ immédiat, j'ai exigé que l'Evêque se prépare de suite, en lui déclarant que s'il part de bon gré, l'escorte des dragons lui servira d'aide et de sauvegarde pendant le long et difficile voyage par terre, selon les instructions reçues de votre Excellence, tandis que lorsque je devrais exécuter les ordres forcément, je serai obligé de le traiter en prisonnier.

Alors l'Evêque s'est préparé, et après la Messe et legère collation est monté à cheval à 3 heures, à la Turque, du matin, en compagnie de Selim Bey, qui a répondu de sa personne, suivi à courte distance par les dragons et la gendarmerie.

Arrivée vers le soir à Saïda, pour éviter les démonstrations qui pourraient s'y produire n'importe dans quel sens, Monseigneur Boutros a été placé à Brahmié, maison isolée appartenant au Liban, distante de dix minutes avant l'arrivée à la ville, sous la surveillance personnele de Selim Bey, et la garde de la gendarmerie Libanaise, et je suis entré en ville avec les dragons pour y passer la nuit, trouver la nourriture pour les hommes et les chevaux, étant prêt à tout événement.

Le lendemain, Dimanche, au point du jour, je me suis rendu avec les officiers des dragons à Brahmié, où je rencontrais l'Evêque, Monseigneur Boutros, à cheval, venant au devant de nous avec deux domestiques, un officier, et deux cavaliers de la gendarmerie Libanaise, qui doivent l'accompagner jusqu'à Jérusalem. Je lui ai présenté le Colagasi, Behrane Effendi, commandant l'escorte des dragons, le Capitaine Czerwieski et le Médecin des dragons, Dr. Majewski, qui iront aussi avec lui jusqu'à la destination; et j'envoyai après cinquante dragons, avec un officier, qui doivent marcher quelques minutes en arrière, mais toujours à la portée.

J'ai recommandé au chef de l'escorte d'avoir pour l'Evêque tous les égards dûs à sa personne, mais aussi de les accorder avec sa position et les besoins du service; de m'envoyer de chaque station un rapport, de demander aux stations prochaines aux Mutessarifs ou Caïmacans, de vouloir faire préparer pour l'Evêque et l'escorte un logement convenable et circonstantiel, et à son arrivée à Jérusalem de remettre contre reçu l'Evêque avec la lettre de votre Excellence au Mutessarif, de demander à l'Evêque le certificat des procédés à son égard pendant tout le voyage, et en cas du refus de sa part, de demander par le Ministère du Mutessarif de Jérusalem l'exposition des griefs qu'il pourrait avoir à imputer.

Je suis resté à Saïda, prêt à monter à cheval en cas de besoin, jusqu'à la réception de la dépêche de Sour, que l'Evêque et l'escort y sont arrivés tranquillement et en ordre; alors avec cinquante dragons restants je suis revenu cette nuit à Beyrout, et j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence ce rapport détaillé de ma mission.

Le plus, &c.

(Signé) L. MONASTERSKI, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Commandant le Régiment des Dragons de la Garde.

Inclosure 3 in No. 425.

Report by Colonel Selim Bey.

Excellence, *Le 3 Juin*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de faire à votre Excellence l'expose suivant:—

Conformément à l'ordre qu'elle a bien voulu me donner, ordre fondé sur un télégramme de la Sublime Porte, en date du 18 Mai courant, pour l'éloignement du Liban de l'Evêque Maronite Monsigneur Boutros Bristani, et son envoi à Jérusalem, où il doit demeurer, je suis parti à 10 heures le jour de Vendredi, 19 Mai, 294, pour me rendre à Beït-Eddin, lieu de résidence de l'Evêque.

J'étais accompagné par deux compagnies de gendarmes Libanais et par le Lieutenant-Colonel des dragons qui avait avec lui un détachment de cavaliers. Nous sommes arrivés à notre destination à 9 heures de nuit, et nous avons fait cerner la localité par les dites troupes. Je suis entré à l'Evéché, moi et Monasterski Bey, ainsi qu'un Capitaine de dragons. Nous avons trouvé tout le monde dormant, et ayant rencontré un des domestiques, je lui ai demandé d'aller réveiller le Curé Mihaïl, Administrateur du Siége Episcopal. Le Curé Mihaïl est venu nous voir. Je lui ai demandé des nouvelles de sa Grandeur, et il m'a répondu avec emotion qu'elle se trouvait à Beyrout. J'ai répliqué, en lui disant "ne répondez pas de votre propre chef, et allez annoncer à sa Grandeur que je suis venu muni d'ordres de son Excellence que je veux lui communiquer." Alors il est parti, puis il est revenu m'appeler pour que j'entrasse chez sa Grandeur. Je me suis présenté et j'ai informé l'Evêque que j'avais des ordres de son Excellence à leur communiquer. Sa Grandeur m'ayant posé la question de savoir pour quelle raison les troupes cernaient l'Evéché, je lui ai dit que cela tenait à quelques considérations. Il a ajouté: "Veuillez passer au salon en attendant que je m'habille et que j'aille chez vous." Nous sommes entrés au salon et peu de temps après sa Grandeur y est venue. Je lui ai donné lecture de l'ordre Viziriel, et il a répondu en disant: "Je me soumets aux ordres de la Sublime Porte, mais je demande trois jours de temps afin de pourvoir à mes strictes besoins avant mon départ." Je lui ai dit que l'ordre dont j'étais porteur était absolu. Il m'a répondu par ces mots: "Vous pouvez télégraphier pour me demander un délai de trois jours et m'apprendre dans quelles conditions mon voyage doit avoir lieu." J'ai agi dans le sens de sa demande, et j'ai reçu une réponse portant qu'attendu que l'ordre Viziriel est peremptoire, il n'est pas possible d'en ajourner la mise à exécution, et qu'une fois que l'Evêque aura dépassé les limites du Liban, il devra être escorté par un officier et deux cavaliers Libanais, à titre de mesure de précaution, ainsi que par cinquante cavaliers dragons, escorte qui l'accompagnera jusqu'à Jérusalem. Je lui ai fait part de la teneur de l'ordre et alors il s'est préparé à partir.

Nous nous sommes mis en route à 3 heures du matin à la Turque, et arrivés à Baraimé, nous avons passé là-bas la nuit. Le lendemain, Dimanche, l'Evêque a

été expédié avec un officier et deux cavaliers Libanais, ainsi que cinquante cavaliers dragons, escorte ayant pour mission de parer à toute éventualité. Ensuite, je suis retourné avec le reste des troupes à la résidence du Gouverneur-Général, après avoir eu pour sa Grandeur tous les égards possibles, et observé toutes les bienséances en conformité aux ordres de votre Excellence à ce sujet. Je n'ai pas non plus négligé le soin de recommander à l'officier chargé d'accompagner sa Grandeur de la traiter pendant la route avec la plus grande déférence et délicatesse en évitant tout ce qui pourrait lui paraître onéreux.

De votre Excellence, &c.
Le-Colonel,
(Signé) SELIM.

Inclosure 4 in No. 425.

Memorandum on the Former Position of Maronite Clergy in the Lebanon.

LES priviléges dont le clergé Maronite se dit en possession dans le Liban, et auxquels il attribue une durée séculaire, n'ont pas d'existence dans le passé. Ce n'est que depuis 1860 que le clergé a mis en avant certaines prétentions que les précédents Gouverneurs-Généraux, par faiblesse ou par ignorance de l'etat réel des choses, ont tolérées.

Les faits suivants serviront a démontrer qu'avant la date qui vient d'être indiquée, les idées de suprématie, d'indépendance et d'inviolabilité, dont on parle aujourd'hui n'existait pas.

Du temps de l'Emir Béchir le Patriarche Maronite nouvellement élu devait venir de Kanobine, qui était alors la résidence Patriarcale, jusqu'à Beït-Eddin, pour recevoir l'investiture de l'Emir. Il apportait une redevance en nature, parmi laquelle figurait un don de vingt-cinq oques de café. Il recevait ensuite l'investiture au moyen d'un caftan ou d'une fourrure que l'Emir lui plaçait sur les épaules.

Les titres donnés au Patriarche par l'Emir étaient inférieurs à ceux qu'il donnait à un simple Cheik.

Cette coutume a continué à être en vigueur sous le régime des deux Caïmacans. Du temps de l'Emir Haïdar Ismail Aboulama, Caïmacan des Chrétiens, le prédécesseur du Patriarche actuel, Monseigneur Yousef Khazen est venu, après sa nomination, chez l'Emir Haïdar présenter le tribut et recevoir l'investiture.

La nomination du Patriarche actuel a eu lieu du temps de l'Emir Préchir Ahmet Aboulama, c'est-à-dire, il y a environ vingt-cinq ans. A cette époque le Patriarche est venu à Broumana, résidence de l'Émir, et lui a apporté l'offrande habituelle. L'Emir a voulu, en retour, le revêtir du caftan; mais le Patriarche a opposé quelques difficultés. A la fin il fut convenu que le Patriarche recevrait la pelisse, mais qu'elle ne serait pas publiquement mise sur ses épaules, comme cela se faisait auparavant.

Quant à l'exile de quelques dignitaires ecclésiastiques, ce fait n'est pas sans précédents. Le Patriarche Iguatios Tyan a été exilé par l'Emir Béchir et envoyé du côté d'Akkar. Le Patriarche Yousef Habeche a également éte éloigné du pays.

No. 426.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 25.)

(Confidential.)
Admiralty, June 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a Preliminary Report on the route from Ismid to Kefken Sacharia River, Heraklea (coal mines), and land communication between Ismid and Heraklea, addressed by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Vice-Admiral Hornby, Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, and forwarded by the Vice-Admiral in his despatch of the 11th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 426.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.) *"Alexandria," at Ismid, June 11, 1878.*

THE accompanying Preliminary Report received from Lieutenant Herbert Chermside, R.E., is forwarded for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

Inclosure 2 in No. 426.

Lieutenant Chermside to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *Therapia, May 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have completed the tour in Asia Minor, undertaken in accordance with your verbal instructions of 4th May.

1. I examined a line of communication from Ismid to Kefken Bay on the Black Sea.

2. I examined the mouth of the Sacharia River, and obtained as much general information as I could as to that river.

3. I visited Heraklea, and some of its adjacent coal mines.

4. I returned to Ismid by an inland route, and followed the best line of land communication I could find.

As, after a month's work in the field, the preparation of a Report which includes several military sketches, and various details as to the construction and improvements of roads, will be a work requiring a good deal of time, I am forwarding this Preliminary Report on the most important points.

1. *Route from Ismid to Kefken Bay.*—The route to Kefken at present consists of a track, practicable for bullock traffic, over a hilly country; it crosses, nearly at right angles, and at an elevation of 1,400 feet, a high range of hills. A very moderate amount of labour would render this route practicable in summer for ordinary wheel traffic. Gradients of 7 degrees are not uncommon, and one or two even of 10 degrees occur; but, speaking roughly, I see no reason why these should not be reduced, so that 7 degrees, or possibly 5 degrees to 6 degrees, should be the heaviest gradient.

The route may be divided into three sections:—

Ismid to Watershed	12 miles.
Watershed to Kandra	24 miles.
Kandra to Kefken	14 miles.
	50 miles.

Ismid Section, 12 Miles.—In the first of these, for 5 miles, the route is paved in places, and though there are swampy bits in the winter, a road could easily be made; so far the track is almost level: the ascent then begins, and continues with occasional very steep bits, to a point 9 miles from Ismid, and 950 feet above the sea-level. There is an outcrop in places of soft-looking stone. Along the ridge the ascent is gradual, and the track, often before scored in numerous grooves deep into the hill side, is now mostly of fair even stony surface to 12 miles, where the highest point, 1,400 feet, is reached. This section of the route is the best, and only requires labour (also most easily procurable on this section) to make a fair road; material is on the spot.

Middle Section, 24 Miles.—In the second section, the first part is bad, being a narrow sunken track in a deep clay soil; some repair would be imperative even for bullock traffic of any duration; brushwood is the only material on the spot. The route follows a winding ridge and at 18 miles reaches a valley without descending by excessive gradients. This wooded valley it follows for 3 miles; here it is level, but in wet weather almost impassable, the soil deep and boggy, except for the last ¼ mile, where it winds along the base of the spurs, and is of better surface. Crossing a stone bridge (550 feet) at 22 miles, it leaves the valley, it ascends to

300 feet at 23 miles, by a very deep difficult ascent, that would require to be surmounted less directly; it then follows, as an unmetalled country track on a deep soil, but good enough in summer, a ridge to 26 miles, where it crosses another stream, and follows it up a finely-timbered valley for 3 miles—in this it is nearly level and mostly of stony surface; an ascent similar to the last leads to an undulating ridge which it follows to within 2 miles of Kandra (36 miles). The gradients are easy, but in wet weather, the narrow woodland track, deep scored in a heavy clay soil, is almost impassable; the last 2 miles into Kandra are fair.

This section requires widening, repair, and bridges. As regards material, timber of good scantling is at hand, but little stone; some of the latter is procurable from the streams in the second wooded valley, and also from a hill about in the centre. Several bridges would be required, and this section would require most labour of any.

After Kandra, the track of easy gradient, in places of stony, in others of muddy surface, skirts the base of hills, till at 2½ (38½) miles, it crosses a stone bridge. So far, little besides widening is required. It then rises over cultivated land, and is heavy in wet weather; it ascends with a gradually increasing gradient, is stony and steep up to the col (580 feet), 4¾ (40¾) miles. A better line should be chosen. Thence it descends with easy gradients over a deep cultivated loamy soil, to a valley which it follows right down to the sea. Here, in its present state, it is only useful as a summer track, and requires much labour to be fit for heavy traffic. Stone is scarce, and brushwood almost the only material on the spot. The above route is 50 miles long. For the first 5 miles there are villages, and then for the next 10 it is over scrub-covered hills with here and there a small hamlet in its vicinity; after this, although the population (especially as regards young men) seems small, the land is a mixture of cultivation and woodland, and small hamlets are very numerous. Bullock transport seems very scarce, pack horses fairly plentiful. In the construction of a road it would, I imagine, be difficult to collect large gangs of labourers, except in camps; stone-breaking tools are presumably scarce, and contractors accustomed to native labour would perform the work most satisfactorily. The route meets the sea at the mouth of the valley, it could easily be prolonged over a low wooded spur ¾-mile long, to Kefken itself.

Kefken to Heraklea and Sacharia River.—This route lies over low spurs covered with dense scrub forest; thence, if the ford be open, across the mouth of the Kannish Su; this river is formed by the confluence near the sea of numerous streams, and is very sluggish; when the flow of water produced by rains opens a channel through the bar, the ford is not passable. So far the track is a narrow, difficult, woodland track, used occasionally for bullock traffic. If the ford be closed, a détour in heavy boggy ground viâ Karadschah, and back to the mouth of the river (8 additional miles) is necessary.

From Kannish Su to the Sacharia River there is a level track, mostly on hard sand, which forms a fair natural road; the sea is distant half-a-mile on the left, while on the right is a dense tree-covered swamp of varying width, succeeded inland by vast continuous forests of fine timber. The line is a good one on the whole, as far as the Melin River, though after the Sacharia River one or two swamps occur. From Melin River to Heraklea there is no land communication except a difficult bridle-path. This line could not be used beyond the Melin River for wheel traffic, and only so far by a force not in danger of annoyance from the Black Sea. From the Melin River to Heraklea it is useless for military purposes. As far as the Sacharia River scrub forests cover the hills for many miles inland. After this, the hills in the interior are replaced by a barrier of high mountains, covered with tall trees, and traversed, as far as I could gather, by few native paths.

Sacharia River.—Half-a-mile above its mouth, this river is a swift stream 90 yards wide. On the 8th May, the current (river in full flood) was 5 miles an hour, and more in places (water over 3 fathoms deep, said to be 5 to 6 fathoms), the bar is semicircular, and the river flows out direct to the north. Numerous stranded trees, &c., cover its whole extent. It is constantly shifting, and has a depth of from 3 to 5 feet in the channels over it; upstream the water is deep for some 7 or 8 miles up (I am informed). Native sailing craft, drawing 4 or 5 feet of water do not appear to ascend above this point, Chamaltu. Above this, the river is said to be easily fordable in summer, and the channel to be in places obstructed by trees. Wood is floated down it, not apparently in rafts, but usually (it is said), from places only distant a short way from the mouth (three and four hours).

I am told a caïque can descend from Adabasar, when the river is high, but the river

does not appear ever to be used as a waterway. From the mouth to Adabasar is nine hours by land (araba tracks on both banks, that on left bank best, it is said), and fifteen hours or more along the course of the stream. In fact, from the information procured at the mouth and at Adabasar, the river seems to be rather a tortuous one.

At Adabasar it is very like the Marizza at Adrianople, but is smaller—a broad, swift, sandy, mountain stream, but shallow in the dry weather. At and near Adabasar, in the spring and winter, a large extent of the plain is inundated. On May 17 the current there was running over 3 miles an hour; the sandy banks were in places 4 feet above the stream; the latter, shoal on the western side, was 12 feet deep in the centre, and 15 feet to 18 feet near the eastern bank; but in summer it is only about 4 feet deep at its lowest (July, August, September). The bottom seems firm sand. At the mouth there is a ferry, and also one at Adabasar; the former takes two horses at a time, the latter ten horses and ten men. From the above considerations I conclude the river to be almost useless for the purposes of navigation.

A vast amount of timber, useful for military purposes, could, however, be easily procured in this neighbourhood. From Kefken to the Sacharia the low spurs that run down to the coast are covered with scrub and low timber; these gradually give way to dense forests of large trees, which clothe the banks of the Rivers Sacharia and Melin, and cover the high mountainous barrier that here runs almost parallel to the coast, a few miles inland. These mountains, and the forest that covers the country for nearly 30 miles inland, traversed as they are at rare intervals by native bridle paths, oppose an almost insurmountable obstacle to any military operations. At the Melin River the mountains touch the coast, and continue almost to Heraklea, but though rugged and broken, the country is less densely wooded.

Heraklea, called Eregli, Erekli, and Bender-Erekli. Heraklea itself, the site of a very strong Genoese castle, and an ancient city, is merely a coal depôt.

It is exceedingly difficult of access except by water; no road (except those from the neighbouring villages) used even by the natives for bullock traffic, leads to it; the route from Bolu viâ Duzcha to Akshishehr, and thence by water.

The nearest coal mine to Heraklea is four hours (about 14 miles) distant by land, and is only approached thence by a difficult bridle-path.

The coast-line here takes a bend, running nearly due north, and the anchorage is a roadstead exposed from N.N.W. through W. to S.W.

Ships coaling lie at anchor in the roadstead, and are coaled from caïques. These caïques also bring the coal from the mines.

The latter are five in number, and are situated in various gullies and valleys along the coast, all of which, having no regular harbours, can only be approached in fine weather.

Alajazi Mine.—The first is Alajazi, four hours by land, 8 to 9 miles by water. There is a small village there. There are three small workings in gullies on the coast to the east of it, called Chamlu; they are included in the Alajazi district; and the three veins of coal usually found, *i.e.*, hard, soft, and middling, are all included in these workings. The coast is a bold, rocky coast, with deep water inshore. The mines are under the management of the Government, and consist of endless workings, almost all on the level system. The dip of the strata is very irregular, and faults are very numerous. The work is sublet to small local contractors.

Koslu Mine.—The second mine, distant by land twelve hours, by water 16 to 18 miles, is called Koslu. There is a small village here, and several large buildings, also a short pier with a shoot at the end, where the water is 4 feet to 6 feet deep. There is a railway running up the valley for 1½ mile; the waggons are drawn by mules. All three veins of coal are found here. 40,000 cantars of coal can be put out per month, and, with an increase of staff and mules, 100,000.

Zundullak.—The third mine is Zundullak, 22 to 23 miles by water, and one hour beyond Koslu by land. There is a shallow cove here, a pier, shoot, and railway, as in the last. The village is about the same size.

About 7 miles inland is a mountain, where coal is said to be abundant, and up to which the existing railway could easily be prolonged.

Kilimni and Cuirasra.—Two hours distant by land, the farther side of a small headland, lies Kilimni, where is another mine; and some way along the coast is Cuirasra, where good coal has been found, but this is not at present worked to any great extent. At neither of the two last-named mines is there a railway (I was informed).

These mines are all excessively difficult of access by land; grain, provisions, &c., arrive by water.

As far as I could learn and judge, a very small force would suffice to close the approaches by land to any of them.

There is no coast road.

Heraklea itself possesses considerable capabilities of defence, and might be made a depôt, and held as an entrenched camp. (I made a hasty sketch of the ground in the neighbourhood.) Unless, however, the advantage of a roadstead were considered of paramount importance, this would require a far greater force than would suffice to hold one or more of the mines. If an enemy even succeeded in reaching it, although the actual depôt need be in little danger, the town and roadstead would be exposed to fire, unless an extended position were taken up.

Last year an unusual amount of coal was put out, *i.e.*, 3,250,000 cantars (18 cantars = 1 ton). The total number of workmen consists of about 500 sailors employed on the railways, &c., and 2,000 workmen; with a slight increase of rolling stock, 1,000 workmen, and 300 more mules, the Director considers that 300,000 cantars per month could be collected.

The coal is luckily procurable very easily, being almost everywhere close to the surface. The complete want of method, appliances, and economy in working it, I will not enter into here. At Koslu there are eight coke furnaces; 40,000 cantars were produced last year.

There are three veins of coal, one a good steam coal, it is said.

The extent of the coal-field appears very great, and probably extends westward up to or beyond the mouth of the Sacharia River.

Land Communication from Heraklea.—The communication by land from Heraklea is very bad. Between it and Duztcha (60 miles) a very mountainous country is traversed, the highest hills being crossed at an elevation of 2,500 feet. Nothing but difficult bridle-paths exist, though there is a good line for the construction (costly) of a road.

From Duztcha (600 feet) to Hendek (800 feet), 36 miles, the ground lies much in flat alluvial plains, crossing, however, a col 1,200 feet high, between the two points. The gradients are not excessive, the track is much in want of repair, but is not impassable for native arabas. From Hendek (800 feet) to Adabasar (100 feet), 26 miles, the track is almost level, and lies across the great alluvial plain of Adabasar, apparently the bed of an ancient lake. Much of this plain is regularly inundated by the Sacharia River, and from November to the end of May parts of it are impassable. Fourteen miles from Hendek is a densely-wooded swamp, 2 to 3 miles across, with two streams flowing through it. The ruins exist of a fine raised wooden causeway. Passengers and baggage pass in canoes, and horses are swum across. From this point to the Sacharia (10 miles) the road was still very boggy and not practicable for heavy traffic. Two or three weeks later this would no longer be the case, and by the end of June the swamp is nearly dry.

From Adabasar to Ismid (33 to 34 miles) the road passes along the southern shore of the Labanja Lake (60 feet) across the very low watershed, and thence down the Ismid plain. A very fine chaussée, constructed a few years ago, is now impassable for even bullock traffic. With scarcely an exception the numerous bridges are gone, gaps exist, and in some places the road is broken up, and the larger stones from below, mixed with tenacious clay, form a hopelessly rugged and difficult surface. The native traffic uses parts of this road with détours to pass the streams, swamps, &c. This traffic consists apparently mostly of beasts of burden, but bullock arabas can pass. In places the line of the railway is followed, the earthwork of which was once nearly complete. Streams are numerous on this line, and only the smaller bridges have been constructed; the earthwork is in places much deteriorated; rails are actually laid for about 3 miles beyond Ismid. To complete the rail would be a work of months.

As regards any march of troops to Heraklea, it is a very arduous undertaking for any force, except with mountain equipment. A long valley runs up to Devrek (twelve hours), up which arabas can pass, but thence to Bolu (twelve hours more) the route is said to be an excessively difficult one.

From Bolu, the track down the Bolu River to the sea at Filias is said to be easy and level, but there is no coast road thence.

From Zafaremboly there is also an araba road.

As regards the line to be taken by a force marching by land from Ismid to Heraklea, it is undoubtedly at any time a difficult march, and in wet weather almost impossible for anything but infantry, except with the expenditure of a vast amount of labour.

Two lines could be taken, and in summer there appears little to choose between them.

1. From Ismid across to the Black Sea at Kefken, thence along the coast track to the Melin River. The Kannish Su and Sacharia Rivers would have to be crossed by pontoon, pile, or flying bridges. Ample bridging material is at hand in the magnificent forests.

The 40 miles from the Melin River to Heraklea is so excessively difficult, being impassable for guns, that from this point, even if they could not be embarked at Kefken, as much as possible of the men and material should be conveyed by water. Water seems scarce in this route, except at Kefken, Ketenin, and Judjelus; from the Kannish Su to the Melin River there are only a few shallow wells in the sand. Its advantages are, that from the Kannish Su to the Melin River, nearly 40 miles, the track is on sand that makes a fair natural road that would be practicable at seasons when the interior of the country is impassable.

2. From Ismid viâ Adabasar and Hendek to Duztcha, and thence to Akshi-Shehr, where it would be advisable to embark all troops and material possible for conveyance to Heraklea, about 20 miles by water. As far as Duztcha this route has been described; a great deal of labour would be required on it, and a bridge across the Sacharia, which has there a firm sandy bottom, but is liable to sudden rises and heavy floods (4 feet deep in summer, 15 feet to 18 feet deep in flood on 17th May).

From Duztcha to Akshi-Shehr (28 to 30 miles) is eight hours, by a track said to be practicable for native arabas; there is a bridle-path also (six hours); on the former route four hours are in the plain and four hours of the route is described as being hilly. The first line would require labour in widening and improving the route from Ismid to Kefken (50 miles), and thence to the Kannish Su (10 miles); beyond this, little except the bridges. It is mostly through a very thinly populated country; supplies and labour would be very scarce.

The other line would require more labour throughout, but it has the advantages of water, and of the towns enumerated; the country is thinly populated, and the vast fertile plains are now for the most part wastes of overgrown hedgerows and grass fields, and carry but little stock.

The country lying between the two routes is high mountainous land, covered almost throughout with dense forests. The swamps render the Black Sea line very unhealthy, but fever also seems rife in the districts traversed by the other.

If it were contemplated to make a road to Kefken, as little additional labour would be required up to the Melin River, this, if not considered too unhealthy would be the best line. The alternative line would have the advantage of passing through a more open, healthy, and better-watered country, towns where depôts could be made, and local supplies collected, and through a country that would furnish more local transport and more supplies of food and forage for the support of this. Native arabas even here seem very scarce and little used, except for farming purposes, and are of a heavier and clumsier construction than those in European Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 427.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 25.)

Admiralty, June 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a Report (addressed by Lieutenant Chermside, Royal Engineers, to Vice-Admiral Hornby, and forwarded by the Vice-Admiral in his despatch of the 13th instant) on the state and feeling of the inhabitants in the country lying between the Bosphorus on the west and Heraklea and Bolu on the east, in Asia Minor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 427.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Alexandria," at Ismid, June 13, 1878.

THE accompanying Report, received from Lieutenant Herbert Chermside, R.E., is forwarded for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

Inclosure 2 in No. 427.

Lieutenant Chermside to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Therapia, May 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that whilst travelling recently on duty in Asia Minor, in the part of the country lying between the Bosphorus on the west and Heraklea and Bolu on the east, I have been much struck with the feeling of the population towards the English nation.

Except in the larger towns the population is almost exclusively Mussulman, and my experience has been principally among Turks proper. The friendly feeling of the peasantry in most parts of the Empire towards the English is, of course, a well-known matter, but after a considerable time spent in European Turkey, I have been so struck with the intensity and unanimity of that in the country I have just visited, as well as with certain points about it new to me, that I am forwarding you this letter on a subject that scarcely lies within the province of my work.

This feeling of the population appears to me not to be, as I have often considered it, merely a friendship, fostered by the traditions of our former alliance and a hope of assistance in maintaining the present state of things, but a definite expression of public opinion, often almost revolutionary, that has permeated to the most out-of-the-way hamlets, and that is in many points opposed alike to the traditions and religion of the Turks.

There is a strong feeling of resentment against the Constantinople Government and the Pashas in general. It really seems to have come home to the nation that, with a brave and devoted soldiery and a magnificent country, they are yet in a hopeless state of ignorance, poverty, and disorganization; in fact, they seem to have somewhat realized their own condition, and to have an idea of what reforms and improvements are wanted, while despairing of ever receiving them at the hands of their own countrymen.

I used the words above, "revolutionary" and "opposed to religion and traditions." By this I mean that in speaking of the possibility of war they say, "If the English want us to come we will come," and on my remarking "But if your Padishah is at peace with Russia?" the answer has been not once, but almost always, to this effect: "What has our Padishah done for us? If you come to help us we will come;" and even occasionally, "We know you have nothing to gain, but fight only for right and justice ('hak layet he insafiehun'), if you come we shall fight as brothers."

Again, there is the constant abuse of their commanders, of the robberies from the soldiery by the officials, and the expression of the wish to have Englishmen to lead them.

It is this point that is, of course, opposed to their traditions, and to look to "infidels" not only for their leaders, but for government, is, of course, against both tradition and religion.

I had the constant query to answer, "What are you doing? Are you going to make roads and railways? Are the English coming to take our country?" And their idea seemed to be not only help in war, but some sort of help and assistance throughout the country.

Another curious feature of the sort of independence of feeling, and evidence of a kind of public opinion, is that I have heard the Government roundly abused more than once for not accepting the reforms, &c., that England asked them to make at the time of the Conference, and which they think would have secured our support.

I have been asked many questions as to the troops coming from India, and also about our rule over Mahommedan races. Of course among themselves there are differences of opinion, and I have heard several discussions showing a truer appre-

ciation of things than from their difficulty in procuring trustworthy information, and habits of thought, I should have expected. Another, to me, new and striking point, was to find this feeling almost universal, that is, shared by the governing classes, officials, mollahs, zaptiehs, and peasants alike; a feeling of friendship for the English, and a hope of material assistance from them. I have generally met with among municipal and other officials, but have not been accustomed to hear them abuse their own Government and system, and to wish us to, at any rate, exercise a sort of protectorate over the country.

At Aashlu (Mudir), at Judjelu (Mudir), at Heraklea (Mutessarif), and (a naval officer of the rank of Post-captain who speaks English well) at Duzieha (Kaïmakam), the tendency of the conversation of the officials has all been in this direction, assistance in administration, or reforming the system, as well as assistance in war.

Hassan Bey, the Director of the Coal Mines, an officer who has been in England, not only despairs of unaided reform, but openly blames the entire system, especially as to its supreme rulers, and their mode of education; he looks on his country as lost as a nation without English aid. The Governor of Bolu said to Major de Winton, R.A., and myself during our only interview, "I have spoken of our very great friendship for the English. I tell you this privately. If the Turkish Government were against England at the present time, and the country to be polled, out of every ten men six would be for the English, against four for own Government."

The news (bazaar gossip as far as we know) of the hoisting of the British flag by the inhabitants of Batoum, was looked upon as likely to cause decisive action on the part of England. "She must help them now and take Batoum, if so, will she come here, and help us too?" and so on.

The state of the country is very pitiable, the absence of young men, and the number of fields no longer cultivated, are very marked evidences of this.

Many tracts once fertile are now overrun by scrub forest, forests of large timber cover ground that was centuries ago cultivated by a thriving population, the magnificent plains of Duzieha, Adabasar, and Ismid, are scantily populated and but little cultivated; ridge and furrow are still discernible in places amongst the waste weed-grown grass fields that carry but little stock, traces show too of rice cultivation, and lines of tall trees, once hedge-rows, give at a distance the appearance of forest to what within a few years must have been vast rich tracts of cultivated alluvial soil.

The immigration of the Circassian and Abkhasian element after the Crimean war appears to be one of the main causes of the above; these people cultivate but little, and their predatory habits prevent their neighbours from either producing valuable crops or even keeping stock. The Turkish ferrymen at the wide swamp between Hendek and Adabasar spoke much of this. "We can keep nothing, if a man has money, a watch, anything of value, they steal it, they have taken all the beasts from our village (Sukennri); my last yoke of oxen," said the headman, "were taken last night."

The complaints of these villagers as referring to their general condition, their utter prostration owing to the war, misgovernment, &c., are certainly very pathetic, especially as being the utterances of such a brave and patient race. "Can our Padishah know what a state we are in?" "We are worn out, we are finished." "Who will help us?" "How can we work, with what heart; all is taken from us?"

During the last fortnight of travelling, &c., from Ismid to Heraklea and back, I was travelling in company with Major de Winton, R.A., who was preparing reports for his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, and who intends forwarding one on this subject. I have read this letter to Major de Winton, and have his permission to state that he does not consider my impressions erroneous, or my estimate of the general feeling of the country we travelled in to be exaggerated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 428.

Mr. Pender to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 25.)

66, *Old Broad Street, June* 25, 1878.

Dear Lord Tenterden,

THE inclosed have this moment come to hand, and may be of interest to you. How foolish the Turks are if they are able to control their people.

Yours truly,

(Signed) JOHN PENDER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 428.

M. Vucino to Sir J. Anderson.

Canea, June 24, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

HARD fighting continues to-day at Vanos, Stylo, Veohorio. Turks burning, pillaging, sacking everything. Large number people lost. Thirteen women massacred. Turkish fleet took part in the action.

Inclosure 2 in No. 428.

M. Vucino to Sir J. Anderson.

Canea, June 25, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

DISTURBANCE in town, Turks insulting and wounding Christians, three killed; market-houses closed, families going on board Italian men-of-war; position critical.

No. 429.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 617.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 25, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Captain Fife to-day:—

"Communication by telegraph has been opened between Rodosto, Gallipoli, and Constantinople; 5,000 troops only remain in Adrianople. There are depôts of provisions at Démotica. Russian Commander at Dédéagatch has taken Custom-house chests containing 15,000 4,000 (? hundred) francs. Officers say maintenance of army on war-footing in Turkey is exhausting Russian resources."

No. 430.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 618. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 25, 1878, 5 P.M.

BAKER PASHA informs me that the Turks are now not only quite strong enough to defend their position round Constantinople, but with the aid of their ships to attack, the Russians would be placed in a most critical position (*sic*). He says that the Russians are constantly making movements in front of the Turkish lines and bringing up troops, so that the Turkish Commanders are obliged to keep their men day and night under arms; but he believes that this is not done with any desire to attack, but with the object of giving an exaggerated idea of their strength. Great sickness, he says, is prevailing in the Russian camp, and it is increasing.

No. 431.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June* 25, 1878.

PRINCE of Roumania leaves for his country residence to-morrow, and he sent Roumanian Delegates at Berlin instructions to continue and resist all suggestions of a transaction on the subject of Bessarabia. At least I have been assured on excellent authority that such is the case.

No. 432.

Acting Consul Summa to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 25, 1878.

TO-DAY a petition, signed by the Chiefs of Mirdicia, of Ponka, of Ofifridamin, and of the mountains of Alesiky and Loura, was presented to the Consular Corps, to be forwarded by them to the Plenipotentiaries of the Congress at Berlin. The signers ask that the autonomy of their country should be recognized by the European Powers, with Prank Bib Doda as their hereditary Chief.

Sent to British Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 433.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard and the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 25, 1878, 6 P.M.

THE following telegram from Canea in Crete has been communicated to-day by Mr. Ponder:—

"*Monday evening.*—Hard fighting continues to-day at Vamos, Stylo, Veshorio. Turks burning, pillaging, sacking everything. Large number of people lost. Thirteen women massacred. Turkish fleet took part in the action."

No. 434.

Lord Tenterden to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 25, 1878, 6 P.M.

Mr. PENDER has communicated the following telegram, received this morning from Canea:—

"Disturbance in town. Turks insulting and wounding Christians. Three killed. Market-houses closed. Families going on board Italian man-of-war. Position critical."

No. 435.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 608.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 18, 1878.

AN Imperial Decree, dated $\frac{\text{May 30}}{\text{June 11}}$, relieves Count Pahlen, at his request, of the functions of Minister of Justice. His Excellency is promoted to the rank of a Privy Councillor (Conseiller Privé Actuel) and retains the dignity of a Member of the Council of the Empire and of Secretary of State.

It is generally reported that his resignation was occasioned by circumstances resulting from the late trial and acquittal of Vera Sassoulitch, it being considered that he had not shown sufficient energy in the administration of his department.

Privy Councillor Nabokow is appointed Minister of Justice in the place of Count

Paldèn. He is considered to be an able man, and the appointment is generally approved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 436.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 609.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Marshal Chakir Pasha has arrived here, and has presented his credentials as Turkish Ambassador at the Imperial Court.

Chakir Pasha is accompanied by Suleiman Bey, Counsellor of Embassy; Chryesedi Effendi, First Secretary; Mahmoud Nedim Bey, Second Secretary; and Zia Bey, Colonel on the Staff, as Military Attaché.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 437.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 611.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Duchess of Edinburgh arrived on the 12th instant at Czarsko Seloe. Her Royal Highness is attended by Captain Haig and Lady Emma Osborne.

His Grand Ducal Highness Prince Alexander of Hesse, brother of the Empress, has likewise arrived at Czarsko Seloe.

I am happy to report that the Empress is considerably better, the last bulletin, dated June 14, stating that the fever had disappeared, the appetite and strength were improved, and that as Her Imperial Majesty was entering a convalescent state, no further bulletins would be published.

Prayers have been offered up both here and elsewhere for Her Majesty's recovery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 438.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 612.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch No. 364 of the 12th instant, transmitting for my perusal the despatches, as marked in the margin,* from Her Majesty's Minister in Persia, which, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I herewith return.

Beyond the reinforcements of the Russian army in Turkestan, as reported in my despatch No. 549 of the 22nd May, I have not learnt of any fresh military movements in Central Asia.

The military forces under General Lomakin at Krasnovodsk were considerably reduced during the Turkish war in order to strengthen the Russian forces in Armenia, but I cannot state whether these forces have been yet replaced.

I am inclined to believe that, since affairs in Europe have taken a pacific turn, the military projects which had been under consideration in regard to Central Asia have been suspended, and General Tchernaieff, who was designated for special service in those parts, has been recalled and is at present residing here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

* Mr. Thomson's Nos. 20, 21, 24, 26, 33, 34, and 39.

No. 439.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 614.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 19, 1878.*

SINCE the meeting of the Congress the Russian press has assumed a more moderate and pacific tone, and has entirely abstained from that impassioned strain in which it had hitherto so assparingly indulged.

Hopes are confidently entertained that, by the wisdom and conciliatory spirit of the distinguished statesmen assembled at Berlin, a just and satisfactory arrangement of Eastern complications may be arrived at, and more especially that the welfare and prosperity of the Christian populations in the East may be permanently secured.

The feeling of animosity against England has greatly subsided, whilst the distrust of Austria has increased, which is producing a very bitter feeling of hostility against that Power among all classes.

The influence of the war party has momentarily ceased, and may be said to have substantially subsided since the removal of General Ignatieff from the Councils of the Emperor.

The Slavist party also, although still influential at Moscow and active in propagating its Slavist tendencies in the Slav provinces of Turkey, is considerably on the wane at St. Petersburgh, and, from what I can learn, has completely lost the influence it once exercised in the regions of the Court.

It is even reported to me that Prince Gortchakow, before leaving, made the following remark to one of my colleagues: "There is," said the Prince, "one word which shall not pass my lips; that word is 'Slav.' The only term I shall use will be that of Christian."

In regard to the question of Slavism, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an interesting article in translation by Mr. Michell from the "Golos."

This article is founded on a letter from a Vienna correspondent, and seeks to prove that concessions to Austria on the part of Russia would be to deliver over to Austria the entire influence over the whole Balkan Peninsula, with the exception of the Greek provinces.

From this it argues that the interest of Russia is rather to come to an understanding with England than to purchase Austrian neutrality in the event of a war with England by concessions which would be surrendering to the Hapsburgs the cause which Russia has hitherto regarded as her own.

This article further states that in reality Russian interests do not clash with those of England in the East. Not only is there sufficient scope for both, but they even in a certain manner amplify each other, and it may be said that the East would clearly suffer were Russian or English influence suddenly to disappear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 440.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 615. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a Memorandum by Mr. Michell, giving, on the authority of a well-informed naval officer, interesting information in regard to the late dislocation of Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

It appears from this information that this dislocation was not effected for sanitary considerations, but in order to conceal from the Turks certain torpedo preparations, and to obtain complete possession of the Kuchuk Tchekmedje Lake, where forty torpedo-boats had been transported, partly by land across the Balkans, and partly by sea from Odessa and other Black Sea ports.

It further appears that the Russians have secretly laid down a telegraphic cable to the Asiatic coast, that they have secret agents on that coast, who report all movements of the British fleet, and that their intention is at the proper moment to tow out

of Lake Kuchuk Tchekmedje the Russian torpedo-boats into the Sea of Marmora, for the purpose of attacking the British fleet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 440.

Memorandum.

A WELL-informed naval officer stated yesterday, in conversation with a trustworthy person, who, in his turn, communicated the information to me, that the recent movements of the Russian troops in the neighbourhood of San Stefano were not executed for sanitary considerations, but were effected with a view to other purposes. He stated that about forty torpedo-boats had been transported, partly by land across the Balkans, and partly by sea from Odessa, Nicolaieff, Ochakoff, and other Black Sea ports to Kuchuk Tchekmedje lake, and that it was necessary, in order to hide the Russian naval torpedo preparations from the vigilance of the Turks and others, to obtain complete possession of the lake and its surrounding shores. This was successfully effected, and the Turkish forces stationed in the neighbourhood were made to retire some distance from the lake.

The officer also asserted that the Russians had secretly laid down a telegraphic cable to the Asiatic coast, and that they possessed trustworthy agents, supposed to be Greeks, at Ismid and elsewhere on the Asiatic coast, who carefully watched the movements of the English fleet, and communicated them to the Russian head-quarters. He also said that instructions were given some time ago, and which still remain in force, to the effect that the Russian torpedo-boats are to be towed out of Lake Kuchuk Tchekmedje some distance into the Sea of Marmora, for the purpose of attacking the British fleet, so soon as the proper moment for so doing shall arrive. Although some of the Russian sailors of the Baltic fleet, who were sent to the seat of war, have returned to St. Petersburgh, the number that was withdrawn has been fully replaced by sailors of the Black Sea fleet from Ochakoff and Nicolaieff.

A large quantity of torpedoes has also been collected at Kuchuk Tchekmedje, which lake may thus be regarded as a large secret Russian base of operation for torpedo warfare in the event of hostilities with England. The channel connecting the lake with the Sea of Marmora has been made navigable.

The rumour which existed at St. Petersburgh, two months ago, of a little surprise being in preparation for the English, may have been founded on the clandestine and active torpedo preparations conducted by the Russian military authorities in the neighbourhood of San Stefano. The disinclination of the Russians to withdraw their forces from the latter place may, perhaps, be attributable to the existence of this Russian torpedo flotilla and depôt for torpedo operations on a large scale at Kuchuk Tchekmedje.

The Russian naval officers who fell into the ditch of the fortress of Brest appear to have been instructed to take the dimensions of the French vessels of war stationed in the harbour. They, it is said, accomplished their mission, and the diagrams they drew of several of the French war ships have been already distributed in lithographed copies among Russian naval officers.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL, *Her Majesty's Consul.*

St. Petersburgh, June $\frac{6}{18}$, 1878.

No. 441.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 616.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation, by Mr. Michell, of a telegram published by the "Golos," from its correspondent at San Stefano, giving the statistics of sickness in the Russian army in Turkey.

The number of sick in the South Balkan army amounts to 30,755; in the army

between the Danube and Balkans to 15,004; and in the rear of the armies to 6,667; in all, to 52,426 men.

The mortality is given at under 5 per cent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 441.

Memorandum.

(Translation.)

THE "Golos" of the $\frac{7}{19}$ June, 1878, contains the following telegram from its own correspondent at San Stefano:—

"On the $\frac{1}{13}$th June the number of sick Russian officers and soldiers amounted, in the South Balkan army, to 30,755; between the Danube and Balkans, to 15,004; and in the rear of the armies, to 6,667 men; or, in all, to 52,426 men.

"The mortality does not attain 5 per cent., and the percentage of sickness somewhat exceeds 10 per cent. The typhus which prevails is not of a violent kind. No other epidemics besides typhus exist. About 8,000 sick have been sent away by sea."

St. Petersburgh, June $\frac{8}{20}$, 1878.

No. 442.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 617.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation, by Mr. Michell, of a letter published in the "Golos" of the 16th, from its correspondent at Orenburg, which states that the Chinese have concentrated troops on the Russian frontier at Djinho, and that their easy conquest of the Khanate of Kashgar makes them meditate seizing Kuldja.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 442.

Letter published in the "Golos" respecting Chinese Turkestan.

(Translation.)

THE "Golos" of the $\frac{16}{28}$th June contains the following letter from Orenburg:—

"The war carried on by the Chinese against the Wungans and Kashgarians, and the prevalent rumours to the effect that a large Chinese force was concentrated on the Russian frontier at Djinho, necessitated the investigation of the truth of these reports. With this object the Military Governor of the Semyechinsk region dispatched several agents to the forts of Bakti, on the Naryn and Muzart. The report made by these emissaries threw a clear light on the position of affairs in Djungari and Djitishar. Later on Major-General Count Borch, who was dispatched on a similar errand, fully confirmed the statement made by the above-mentioned agents. Eventually Colonel Matvieff visited Djinho in the early part of this year, being instructed by the Russian Government to make certain investigations. Colonel Matvieff arrived in Djinho in the early part of March, and was received on the day after his arrival by the Tsin-Tzan-Tzun, to whom he explained that he was instructed by his Government to inquire into the misunderstandings which had latterly arisen between the Russian and Chinese frontier inhabitants in consequence of depredations committed on Russian as well as on Chinese territory. The Tsin-Tzan-Tzun courteously replied that he considered it his duty to do everything that lay in his power in regard to these matters, and requested Matvieff to make himself acquainted on the spot with the circumstances which he, the Tsin-Tzan-Tzun, had represented to the Russian frontier authorities.

"At Djinho M. Matvieff met with the warmest reception on the part of the Chinese authorities, and he was visited by all the local Chinese officials. But as the Chinese are notoriously suspicious, the espionage instituted over M. Matvieff and his

assistants considerably interfered with his work of making a survey of the country through which he had passed, and it was with the greatest difficulty that he succeeded in drawing up a march route, and in determining the height of several points.

"The depredations committed on the Chinese and Russian frontiers is only the inevitable result of the miserable condition to which the Kashgarian refugees were reduced after their flight on to Russian territory on the capture of Kashgar by the Chinese.

"At the present time terrible barbarities are perpetrated in the Kashgarian territories occupied by the Chinese. All the Dungan inhabitants, with the exception of children under eight years of age, have been slaughtered, and one Dungan was cut up into 360 pieces. Six Dungan commanders were sent to Pekin. The property of the Dungans is despoiled, and the horses and cattle of the inhabitants appropriated to the use of the Chinese. A tax of several measures of corn from each person is imposed on the inhabitants.

"After the flight of Bek-kuli-bek the Chinese occupied Kashgar only on the third day with a detachment of not more than 500 men; to these were soon added 1,500 men, and it may therefore be confidently said that the Khanate of Kashgar was conquered by 2,000 Chinese. This easy campaign has inspired them with such valour that they meditate advancing their forces into the Indus valley, and to seize the Kuldja region, which belongs to us; this has spread a great panic among the Dungans inhabiting Kuldja and Saitsun, and they only await the approach of summer to retire from the Chinese frontier into the interior of the Semirechinsk region."

No. 443.

Telegrams communicated by M. Gennadius to Mr. Cross, June 26.

(1.)

Athènes, ce 24 Juin, 1878, 4·45 P.M.

NOUS recevons à l'instant de Candie le télégramme suivant:—

"Turcs réguliers profitants inaction des Chrétiens, ordonnée par l'Assemblée et recommendée par Mr. Sandwith, sont entrés hier Qubotsivara (?) ont brûlé les maisons et les moissons, massacré les habitants; nombre inconnu; près d'Armenous onze femmes massacrées. Chrétiens attaqués reprirent Armenous aujourd'hui. Bachi-Bazouks sortis armés; combat imminent."

(Signé) COUMOUNDOUROS.

(2.)

Athènes, ce 24 Juin, 1878, 6·45 P.M.

Nous recevons à l'instant de Candie le télégramme suivant:—

"Combat acharné continue à Stylo, Vamo, et Neochorion. Les Turcs brûlèrent aujourd'hui Garatochori."

(Signé) COUMOUNDOUROS.

(3.)

Athènes, ce 24 Juin, 1878, 7·3 P.M.

Sang coule en abondance en Candie. Ne serait-ce pas possible que suspension des hostilités soit ordonnée de la part du Congrès puisque la question sera résolue très-prochainement?

(Signé) COUMOUNDOUROS.

No. 444.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 26.)

Sir, *Admiralty, June 26*, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, dated 26th June, at Suda Bay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 444.

Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Suda Bay, June 26*, 1878, 12·15 P.M.

HAVE telegraphed to Commander-in-chief as follows:—

"During recent Turkish operations there was an alleged massacre of 100 old men, women, and children. Great excitement and alarm at Canea (Candia). 'Defence' now anchored there."

No. 445.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 619.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 25*, 1878, 7·45 P.M.

HEAD of Protestant community has complained to me that Bulgarian Bishop of Ilimin went recently to village of Kayshdéré, eight hours from Adrianople, where there were a considerable number of Protestants, and declared that Protestantism was no longer permitted in Bulgaria. The Bulgarians consequently set upon the Protestants, beat them, destroyed their fields, and plundered their houses. Those who could escape fled to Adrianople, but some of them, having been caught on the way, were shamefully treated, and women grossly outraged. Protestants ask for protection in Bulgaria.

No. 446.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 620.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 26*, 1878.

TELEGRAM received this morning from Lord Tenterden states, on authority of Mr. Pender, that massacres have been committed by Turks in Crete. Such reports must be received with caution, and, as I have already informed your Lordship, Greek Government is doing its utmost to foment insurrection in the island, and in Thessaly and Epirus, in order to produce a state of things favourable to pretensions it may submit to the Congress. Had it not interfered, the arrangement we had proposed for pacification of Crete would have been accepted. I have heard nothing yet from Consul Sandwith to confirm report sent by Lord Tenterden.

No. 447.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 621.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 26*, 1878.

BY Russian official return there were on the 13th instant in the hospitals of Russian army the following patients, viz.:—

Army south of Balkans, 30,755.
Between Balkans and Danube, 15,004.
In Roumania, 6,667.

No. 448.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 622.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 26, 1878, 8 P.M.

PORTE has decided not to give its assent to occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. I am informed that the Sultan feels very strongly on the subject, and believes that to give away two of his provinces would expose him to the resentment of his people. Count Zichy wishes for an audience of His Majesty to press the matter.

No. 449.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

Bucharest, June 26, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is believed at Bucharest that during the last few days messages have been received from Berlin by the Prince of Roumania, from the Crown Prince of Germany, strongly urging an arrangement with Russia about Bessarabia, and stating that recognition of independence might be deferred if Roumania continued to oppose every compromise and exchange. The instructions which I reported as having been sent yesterday appear to have been determined upon after full agreement between the Prince and Ministry.

No. 450.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Herbert.

Foreign Office, June 26, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, inclosing a copy of a letter addressed by the Vicar Apostolic of Gibraltar to Sir M. Hicks Beach, relative to the condition of Roman Catholics in Turkey; and I am to suggest that, in reply to this communication, the Vicar Apostolic should be informed that Great Britain will do what is in her power to protect the inhabitants of Turkey from oppression on account of their religion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 451.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 27.)

Admiralty, June 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, dated 27th June, 1878.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 451.

Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Suda Bay, June 27, 1878, 8·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE telegraphed to Commander-in-chief as follows:—

"Recent serious alarm Canea has subsided."

No. 452.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 623.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 27, 1878.

GENERAL TODLEBEN informs me that he has advised the Emperor that in case Russian forces are withdrawn from Constantinople, they should occupy a line passing through Luli-Bourgas and the Turkish one passing through Tchataldja. The neutral zone between two guards should then be divided into two equal parts, and Russians and Turks should maintain order in the part on their respective sides, employing only cavalry, which he thinks sufficient for the purpose, and not infantry and artillery. Should peace be assured, he proposes to embark his troops, &c., at San Stefano and places on coast of Sea of Marmora.

He expressed to me his opinion that should it be necessary for the Russian troops to be withdrawn altogether from Roumelia, it would be absolutely necessary to replace them for a time by English or other troops, in order to prevent general anarchy and great bloodshed. He fully admitted the outrages and excesses committed by Bulgarians and Greeks, and said that he had given strict orders that they should be repressed and their authors punished. Unfortunately his orders do not appear to be obeyed.

No. 453.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 759.)

Foreign Office, June 27, 1878.

Sir,

I APPROVE the reply which you have instructed Mr. Reade to make to Enbery Bey's complaint respecting the destruction of his property by Bulgarians and Russians, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 756 of the 11th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 454.

Mr. Cross to Consul Sir C. Scbright.

(No 10.)

Foreign Office, June 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 30, Political, of the 6th instant, inclosing a copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio's report of the results of his mission to the Epirote refugees on the Acarnanian frontier; and I have to instruct you to convey to Mr. Onofrio my approval of his proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 455.

Mr. Cross to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 12.)

Foreign Office, June 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 61, Political, of the 2nd instant, forwarding copies of despatches which you have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; and with reference to your despatch to his Excellency of the 1st instant, I have requested Mr. Layard to call the attention of the Porte to the circumstance of your having been fired upon by the Turkish troops, and to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that all possible precautions may be taken to prevent such an occurrence from happening again. I have, at the same time, to express to you my satisfaction that you have escaped without receiving any injury.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 456.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 82. Political.)

Trebizond, June 12, 1878.

My Lord,

IN a special report for the year 1875 on Turkish maladministration, which I transmitted to my Confidential despatch of the 29th February, 1876, I pointed out that one of the principal causes of the venality and inefficiency of the Turkish functionaries was the mode of their appointment, and the uncertainty of their tenure of office; and that to remedy the evil the Civil Service should be made a regular career; a special Court instituted at Constantinople to hear and determine all cases connected with the civil officers; and proper means devised to enable the populations to bring to its knowledge their grievances against the provincial functionaries.

I also stated that the uncontrolled power vested in the hands of the Sultan was considered by the Mussulmans themselves as the greatest evil, and that a change in this respect would have been hailed with satisfaction by the Turkish populations which suffered as much, and perhaps more, than the Christians.

Even at that time radical reforms, under foreign pressure, that of Great Britain especially, were considered by the Mussulmans at large, and by a few honest Government functionaries, as the means to avert a general collapse.

The changes which have since taken place at Constantinople have shown that religious fanaticism was not awakened in the Mussulmans even by the enactment of a Constitution, and the abortive Parliaments, which sat for two uncompleted Sessions, have matured in the populations the wish for more liberal institutions.

The sad events of the last war have had for effect to confirm the Mussulmans in the prevailing idea that all their evils were derived from the uncontrolled power of the Sultan, who confided to incapable Pashas the destinies of the Empire.

The Mussulmans have also come to the conclusion that as long as the present generation of Pashas is in power no revival is possible. They state openly that the governing class is an insignificant minority, sucking the blood of the population at large, and they now look to Europe for their national regeneration, which cannot be accomplished by their own elements.

They are most anxious that the civil functionaries in the provinces should be men chosen for their capacity and honesty, and not, as it is the case now, appointed owing to their family or other connections with the persons in power; and that the local Medjlisses should be so composed and regulated as to offer more security than hitherto for justice being done.

They being convinced that this object cannot be attained so long as the present ruling class is omnipotent, nothing will satisfy them but the institution at Constantinople of a European Commission to supervise the required reforms; and the appointment in each province, at least, of a European Commissioner to control all the acts of the functionaries, and of the Courts of Justice, for the information of the Central Board.

I need hardly say that the Christians would be but too happy to see adopted a measure of this description.

The civil functionaries alone are afraid that the wishes of the populations should be carried out.

The question of the nationality of the Commissioners to be appointed in Asia Minor is one which deserves serious attention. The Mussulmans, who are about three-fourths of the population, say that British Commissioners alone could inspire them with perfect confidence, and the Christians themselves would be very pleased with this choice. If as much is done as to carry out the measure in question, it is impossible not to take into account the wishes of the populations for whose welfare it is adopted. Besides, the prestige which England exercises now in Asia Minor is calculated to greatly facilitate the work of British Commissioners, while complications, difficult to overcome, might be created by the presence of Commissioners of nations not enjoying the same confidence.

Should no radical changes be carried out, the prevailing dissatisfaction of the Mussulmans, which is now kept down by the hope of a reformed Administration, under European pressure, will completely alienate the populations from the Sultan, whose prestige has already been much shaken of late.

To give an idea of the present feelings of the Mussulmans here, I may mention

that they sympathized rather with Ali Suavi's death, than with the escape of the Sultan.

There is another feature in the feelings of the Mussulmans in Anatolia which is worth noticing.

After the unfortunate issue of the war, they were prepared to see Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro independent, and Bulgaria autonomous, but they would have opposed all idea of autonomy south of the Balkans, as they did not want to hear of the slightest change in Asia.

Now they wish not only that Bosnia, Herzegovina, Albania, and the provinces in Thessaly and Epirus, but also, and especially, Armenia should be made autonomous to counterbalance Russian influence in Europe, and to serve as a barrier to further encroachments in Asia.

The Mussulmans are only afraid that Russia will refuse to subscribe to these terms, which they now consider as their only safeguard in the future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 457.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 83. Political.)

Trebizond, June 13, 1878.

My Lord,

LETTERS from Erzeroum of the 9th instant report that the troops which are arriving to replace the sick and wounded belong to the 39th Army Corps, and that the 21st and 40th Army Corps were also on their way from Kars to Erzeroum. Contracts have been passed for the provisioning of seven regiments, which, if complete, represent 28,000 men, but Russian regiments are not reckoned to contain now more than 3,000 men each.

The Russian troops in the vicinity of Artwin are also said to have been strongly reinforced. I have no direct news from that region, but it seems certain that for some time past a considerable number of Russian troops have been landed at Poti, in destination for the Caucasus and Armenia.

General Lazareff, the new Commander-in-chief in Armenia, was expected daily at Erzeroum.

A Cossack having been lately killed in that town, the Commandant of the place called in his presence the Moullahs and Imams of the different quarters, and informed them that if the murderers were not discovered, he would fine 1,000 roubles each head of family in the quarter where the deed was perpetrated, and that if the money failed to be paid, he would ransack and demolish their houses, as it had been done at Ghiaour Boghan. Ghiaour Boghan is a remote Mussulman quarter of Erzeroum, in which this measure was carried out some time ago as a punishment for the murder of three soldiers and the wounding of an officer.

The Mussulmans were also ordered, under severe threats, to give up all the arms of the Turkish Government in their possession; they were warned at the same time that they would be severely punished if they did not show the Commandant of Erzeroum the same respect which they used to have for their Vali, and were recommended to live on good terms with all Christians.

There are also movements in the Turkish troops at Erzinghian, who are said to be watching closely the road leading to Erzeroum from the west, to prevent the introduction of grain in the town.

The Turkish transport "Caissarieh" landed here yesterday 4,250 cases of ammunition, and cases for six mountain-guns, which were brought here from Batoum a few months ago, and have been ordered now to Erzinghian.

Viscount du Halgouet, the French Military Attaché, returned from his excursion in the interior without having been able, owing to the unsafety of the roads, to visit Mooch, and left last week for Batoum. According to his account, the Turkish troops in Armenia do not amount to more than 30,000 men.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 458.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 84. Political.) *Trebizond, June 14, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter, dated the 4th instant, from the German Vice-Consul at Amassia to his brother, who has kindly placed it at my disposal.

It gives an idea of the deplorable state of things in that quarter.

Atta Bey, the Mutessarif of Amassia, is represented to me as a man of perfect incapacity, who owes his appointment to high protections at Constantinople. He does not rob himself (openly at least), but he allows others to do as they please.

It is to be hoped that he will not be sent back to his post after a residence of a few months at Constantinople.

The following almost incredible report has been related to me as having occurred lately at Tokat:—

The Kaïmakam of that town, on receiving the order issued a few months back to disband the Redifs and Mustafis who were being collected, kept it secret, but gave them to understand that he could for a consideration obtain their release from service. The families of these poor men sold whatever was in their possession to find the required money; they paid, and were liberated.

This manœuvre seems to have lasted long enough to ruin many unfortunate Mussulmans, and to procure a round sum to the Kaïmakam. When he was detected, orders were sent to bind him up and send him to Constantinople, which was done, the population following and hooting him for some distance from the town. But will he be punished as he deserves?

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 458.

Note addressed by the German Vice-Consul at Amassia to his Brother.

Amassia, le 4 Juin, 1878.

(Extrait.)

NOTRE Gouvernement local devient de jour en jour plus mauvais, et on commence par dire hautement pourquoi ne volerions nous pas puisque ce sera bientôt fini avec nous.

Depuis ton depart il y a eu l'assassinat de Sakaria Efendi, le Juge au Sheriant. Il a été tué devant la maison du Cadi un soir en rentrant. Toute la ville est dans une terrible excitation, et de tous côtés on accuse notre mauvaise administration d'être la cause indirecte de tous ces troubles. L'assassin est pris, et on dit qu'il a été torturé pour avouer sa faute.

Toute la population est sur pied et a envoyé des députations au Mutessarif le priant de donner sa démission. Il a essayé plusieurs manœuvres pour se soustraire à cette pression, mais à la fin il a demandé pour cause de santé un congé à Constantinople.

Pour quelques grands Turcs comme Kara Hafus, Mufti, &c., sa retraite sera très-désagréable parcequ'ils profitaient jusqu'à présent de ce mauvais état de choses pour voler le Gouvernement.

Jeremin Efendi, Papas Oglou, les membres Chrétiens du Conseil-Général, les députés Chrétiens aux Tribunaux ont donné leur démission, parce que le scandale devenait journellement plus grand.

De Sivas on a envoyé quarante-neuf zaptiés. Ah! si les Puissances Européennes pouvaient voir aussi clair que nous dans les affaires d'administration Turque.

No. 459.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 27. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 14th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte reporting the projected rising of the Albanian population, numbering 120,000 men, against the Russian Slav domination; and that the Greek insurgents are delaying their return to Greece till after the decision of the Congress on the Greek question.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 15th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, sending an extract from the report of Mr. Bizzo, First Dragoman of this Consulate, reporting the incarceration of an "insurgent" contrary to the intention of the "Amnesty."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 459.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the whole of the Albanian population, both Mussulman and Christian, in the towns around Prisrend, viz., Uskub, Koproulee, Istib, Katchanée, and the mountainous region called Kalkanderoh, with all the adjoining villages, are preparing to arm to resist the Russians, Servians, and Bulgarians, and that all are agreed to assemble at Prisrend, as a convenient central town, and there unite together in one vast effort against the expected invasion; hoping that by extending the line from Albania eastward they will succeed in joining hands with the rising in the Rhodope Mountains.

They are said to be 120,000 men, ready to take the field as soon as they shall have heard that the decision in the coming Congress is favourable to Russian and Slav views. Your Excellency may rely on the fact of the projected assembly at Prisrend of the male able-bodied population of thirty towns and large villages, and I hope by next mail to be enabled to give your Excellency the detailed particulars of this movement.

I hear from Mr. Suter, on the 12th instant, what is also reported here, that about Mount Olympus, and also in other parts of Thessaly, many of the insurgents are delaying their return to Greece, in order to wait and see what will be done in the Congress about the Greek question. Mr. Suter also informs me that by orders from the Porte all the infantry regiments (except eighteen battalions) in Thessaly are to be sent to Constantinople, thus leaving an insufficient military force to repress disorder and brigandage, which is on the increase everywhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 459.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 15, 1878.*

I HAD the honour on the 13th instant to telegraph to your Excellency in cypher the imprisoning of an insurgent by the Defterdar, and to pray that energetic commands be sent to him to liberate him.

Although Mr. Bizzo explained to the Defterdar the illegality of his act, after the proclamation of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan's "Amnesty," he could not make any impression on his mind. He replied persistently that he had no instructions from Constantinople, and could not do anything without the sanction of the Medjliss, &c. I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, herewith inclosed, an extract from Mr. Bizzo's report to me of this day's date.

The Porte should not leave this important vilayet without a Vali for so long a period, temporarily directed by so incapable and ignorant a man as the Defterdar, nominally independent, but in reality under the control of the Council, who are not responsible agents.

The neighbouring Vilayet of Kossova is also without any Vali, and has been so for more than a month, Rifaat Pasha having gone to Constantinople on leave, to canvass, in hopes of being appointed to Salonica.

Thus both vilayets are without a titular Governor-General, and in these times they both require able men to discharge their onerous duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 459.

Mr. Bizzo to Acting Consul Barker.

June 15, 1878.

(Extract.)

AFTER referring to his having accompanied Mr. Consul Blunt and Mr. Consul Merlin as interpreter, and to the amnesty guaranteed to the insurgents by these Consular officers, he says:—

"The Salonica civil authorities lodged one of the said insurgents in gaol, but the fact having been brought to the knowledge of the Military Commander, Assaf Pasha, the man was set at liberty, although on application in the first instance to the civil authorities it had met with disapprobation.

"On the 12th instant the local authorities imprisoned an individual named D. Pentefounda, making a great to do about it. This person had lately arrived from Greece. I considered it my duty to make some observations upon the matter to the Defterdar (who was acting for the Vali during his indisposition) to the effect that it was his duty to respect the orders given by his Government, reminding him that a full and complete amnesty had been granted to the insurgents; that the English Government had commended honourable engagements; and that, if his present manner of acting were persisted in, those who were still in the mountains, and even those who had laid down their arms and returned to their homes, would have their position opened afresh, and betake themselves to brigandage. The Defterdar gave but an indifferent reception to my remarks, and refused, saying that he had had no official instructions for his guidance; all that he knew about such matter was that twenty days ago he had put another of these insurgents into prison, and that the Military Commander, Assaf Pasha, had given him a written notification of the alleged amnesty, and that upon this authority he set the individual at liberty. I availed myself of this admission to argue that Pentéfounda would have the benefit of the precedent. To my argumentation he gruffly retorted, 'What harm would occur if such dogs would lie in prison. I should telegraph to Constantinople, and could be instructed to act in this case, because this amnesty is granted only to those who have taken up arms against the Imperial Government; but those who have been guilty of other "malefient" (deeds) should be punished as the law directs.'

"I then interposed with the following observations: 'You would also of course entertain the charges preferred by the Christians against the irregular troops, who, without any orders from either civil or military authorities, had murdered defenceless old men, women, and children; had desecrated churches, pillaged homesteads, &c.' My observations remained unanswered.

"After leaving the Defterdar, I went and found Assaf Pasha, and related to him what had passed between the Defterdar and myself.

"Assaf Pasha took very much to heart what I related to him, and said that if the Defterdar, the Mousteshar, and the Colonel of Police were not instantly superseded by new efficient officers, we might look forward to more disorder still. All these evil mischiefs he assured me are but the natural system of a bad civil administration, from which baneful effect he himself was not exempt.

"May I beg you, Sir, to have the goodness to transmit a copy of this report to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador in Constantinople, knowing, as you do, that I am charged by Mr. Blunt with the oversight of such matters."

No. 460.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 32. Political.)

My Lord, *Odessa, June* 22, 1878.

THE inclosed extract from the "Journal d'Odessa" bears on the particulars in the Commissariat Department of the Russian army which I alluded to in my despatch No. 60, Political, of 30th August last.

It is officially stated by the Doctor-in-chief that there are at the present moment 52,000 sick among the troops.

An army surgeon told me to-day that of those who crossed the Balkans during the winter, 90 per cent. will be invalids for life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure in No. 460.

Extract from the "Journal d'Odessa."

DANS une correspondence adressée d'Odessa au "Goloss" nous trouvons ce qui suit:—

"La Commission d'Enquête chargée d'examiner les abus commis par les fournisseurs de l'armée se trouve en ce moment à Odessa. Les Protocoles contiennent sur les agissements de MM. les entrepreneurs et des officiers supérieurs de l'intendance, des détails qui pourront former des volumes entiers pleins de légendes. Quel spectacle inouï! Voyez un Colonel auquel le vent emporte 5,000 tchetv. de farine, et au Gouvernement 50,000 roubles (le prix était de 10 roubles le tchetv). Là un dépôt de 300,000 pouds de foin établi dans un endroit où il n'était nullement nécessaire et dont on n'a pris que 10,000 pouds; le reste s'est gâté. Ici les fameux biscuits que les médecins ont trouvé dangereux mêmes pour la nourriture des rats. Ce dernier aliment a été saisi, il y a neuf jours, sur le bateau à vapeur qui se préparait à le porter à l'armée. Enfin que peut-on dire d'affaires faites par l'intendance seule et directement. En Roumanie on avait autorisé les commandants à faire du pain comme ils le pourraient, pourvu qu'ils arrivassent à nourrir les hommes et les chevaux; qu'en est-il résulté? Sur quinze points le pain était fait de toutes espèces de mélanges farineux et d'avoine complètement verte; à la place d'esprit de vin, de la votka de 38 degrés. Mais, dans une lettre on ne peut tout dire; grâce à M. Levcovitch, Président de la Commission, l'enquête se poursuit énergiquement sans aucune considération pour le rang ni la fortune des accusés."

No. 461.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 35. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, June* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch received this morning from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura reporting that the Greek troops at that station (some 1,200 strong) had received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march.

2. The Vice-Consul, in a private note, writes as follows:—

"The Greeks here are somewhat disappointed at the turn affairs appear to be taking at Berlin. They think Congress will not make annexations to Greece. The idea of a *coup de main* on Epirus and Thessaly, &c., whence the Turks have withdrawn almost all their troops, is being agitated as the best course in the event of nothing turning up by diplomatic means. The orders to the troops to be ready to march might be taken as an indication that some such policy is being contemplated. They believe Europe will sanction accomplished facts as was done in the case of Italy. I fear, therefore, that troublous times are yet in store for us."

3. What species of Government rules in Greece at present I do not venture to determine, whether that of the King's Ministers or the "Patriotic Committees," or of

both together. One thing seems very evident, that unless greater pressure is applied by the protecting Powers, the Greeks will commit themselves one of these days in a way that must compel the Turks to strike out in their own defence, when the chances are that the Greeks will have the worst of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 461.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, June 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Wednesday last, 19th instant, the troops stationed here were telegraphically ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march. The order for departure has not yet been given, nor is the destination known, but it is believed in military circles they will be sent to the frontier.

2. Twenty-two volunteers arrived from Corfu by last Austrian Lloyd's steamer, and were sent to join the "Fusones." I am also informed that troops at Venitza were also ordered to be ready to march.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 462.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 36. Political.)

Corfu, June 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a report received by the mail of this morning from Vice-Consul Onofrio, to the contents of which I would venture to invite your Lordship's particular attention.

2. From what has of late transpired in this quarter, I have every reason for believing that the statements contained in this report are in exact conformity with facts.

3. It was in view of events, now cropping up on a more extensive scale, that I ventured to address to the Earl of Derby my despatch of the 27th December, 1877, No. 39, Political, Confidential.

4. My suspicions at the time of Italian designs on Epirus reached much deeper than the disclosures alluded to in the despatch in question, and I may now confess that it was principally with the view of following them up that I have got the commander of the "Rapid" to pay such frequent visits to Avlona and Durazzo since the ship was placed on this station.

5. The claims of the Italians to the sovereignty of Epirus date from the middle of the eleventh century, when the country was conquered by the Norman Dukes of Apulia, and, ridiculous as it may appear, the validity of the rights of inheritance thence derived are still asserted by Neapolitan jurists and Italian politicians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 462.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(Confidential.)

Santa Maura, June 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, on the strength of trustworthy authority, that a certain Abdul Bey, a leading Albanian Mussulman, native of Premet, in Southern Albania, and one of the Deputies for Epirus at the Ottoman Parliament, went over last week to Avlona, where he had arranged to meet other leading Albanian co-religionists, with the view of drawing up a memorial to the Congress, declaring that they would rather place their country under the protectorate of Italy, than adhere to its annexation to Greece.

It is worthy of notice that, while Abdul Bey was last week on his way to Avlona, the Italian Vice-Consul at Prevesa was, on the other hand, preparing an ethnographical report on Epirus, which, I am informed on the best authority, he was particularly anxious to forward to his Government, as, in fact, he did, by last Sunday's mail. This somewhat singular coincidence of incidents, aiming to all appearances at one and the same end, gives some clue as to the intrigues going on in the opposite province at this critical juncture. It is pretty well known that the Italian agents have for years been very active in Albania; but their exertions, under various forms, more or less open to criticism, only reached, I am informed, a high pitch since the abolition of the British Consulate at Janina, when Russia on the one hand, and Italy on the other, were left in full possession of a vast field, peculiarly adapted, owing to a variety of causes, for which the Turkish Administration was alone to blame, to the spread of discontent and intrigue. Russia worked, although with no marked success, in the interest of Panslavism, or, better, in her own interest; while Italy, strengthening her Consular Staff, organized her political propagandism all over Albania, with the intent of spreading the germs of ideas calculated to promote her scheme of protectorate over that country, and, perhaps, also, of its eventual annexation to the Italian Kingdom. This agitation directed against the "Hellenic idea" has naturally aroused the indignation of the Hellenes, for they rightly or wrongly claim territory to the north of Croja, as far as the borders of the Mat, while the Albanians—or the agitators representing themselves as their spokesmen, and who are suspected of being privy to Italian intrigue—now push their claim all over Epirus (!), thus absorbing nearly all the country on which, on historical, geographical, and ethnographical grounds, Hellenism considers its own, as it will be observed from the copy of an article published in the "Neologos" of Constantinople (No. 2,780 of May $\frac{31}{19}$, and 2,785 of May $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878), which I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your perusal, confuting an article contributed by Abdul Bey to the "Basiret" of Constantinople. I also inclose copy of a Memorial addressed to the Legislative Chamber and Senate at Athens, in the year 1847, by the Mussulman Albanian Chieftains, and leaders of the insurrection which was then raging, setting forth their grievances against their Turkish rulers, and soliciting the protection of Greece. This document, fallen into my hands by a mere chance, has, in my opinion, an important political bearing at the present moment, although it refers to events which occurred thirty-one years ago, in so much as it shows that the Albanians, whose adhesion to the Italian scheme of protectorate Abdul Bey is now endeavouring to enlist, and among whom he has started a new "idea," serving only foreign ends, have, in moments of trial, shared the Hellenic aspirations, which tended to no other result than the incorporation with the Greek Kingdom of the country which Abdul Bey now wishes severed from Greece, and placed under Italian protection.

2. While writing on affairs in the opposite province—which, having come to my notice, I have deemed it my duty to report to you—I may as well add that, having of late had frequent occasions of sounding the opinions prevailing among some of the leading Epirote notabilities, who may be considered as fairly reflecting the wishes and tendencies of the bulk of their countrymen, I found that nothing short of annexation of Epirus to Greece would satisfy their wishes; but they would, on the other hand, insist on annexation with certain conditions. As to an unconditional union, such as that of the Ionians, they would prefer "hegemony." The higher classes in Epirus think that the existing Constitution of Greece would be inapplicable to a country which has for centuries been labouring under the demoralizing sway of Turkish misrule, and where the people have not yet risen to the conception of liberty based on the broadest democratic principles of government, such as those consecrated by the existing charter of Greece.

Autonomy (should Congress so dispose of Epirus and Thessaly, &c.) would indeed deliver them from the existing misgovernment, and would establish some sort of self-government; but then, they contend, if the main object of the Congress be to restore permanent peace in the East, and to raise Hellenism as a barrier against Slavism, autonomy, or even hegemony, would, in their opinion, answer neither purpose; it would be too weak to stand against the preponderating force of Slavism steered by Russia, while, on the other hand, it would not obviate the danger of fresh complications at a more or less remote date, as it would satisfy neither the legitimate national aspirations of the provinces themselves nor the cherished hopes of Greece, and would therefore reopen an area of discontent and intrigue.

3. Such are the opinions and tendencies prevailing among Epirote notabilities with whom I came in contact quite lately; but in Greece there is a party which would

puish matters to a desperate course in the event of Congress doing nothing for Greece in the shape of annexation, &c., which would satisfy the national aspirations and compensate the sacrifices made for military preparations.

At such a critical moment, when Europe is convened to decide upon the fate of nationalities, and to consider the best means calculated to secure permanent peace in the East, I have deemed it my duty to submit these notions to you, feeling confident that their bearing may plead my apology for this lengthy despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 463.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 624.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 27, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Sandwith to-day:—

"There was some alarm here among Christians in consequence of the threats of the Mussulmans, but all is now quiet."

No. 464.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 625.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 27, 1878.*

CONSUL BLUNT, in despatch of 16th instant, states that Greek agents are doing their utmost to prevent refugees from returning to Thessaly, but that, notwithstanding, many have returned. He adds that Turkish authorities, civil and military, are acting with moderation and justice, strictly and impartially carrying out promises given by the Porte, and doing their best to conciliate the Christians.

No. 465.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 191. Secret.)
My Lord, *Washington, June 17, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 184, Secret, of the 10th instant, and to my telegram of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have been positively assured that Russian agents have purchased the steamer "Niagara," recently employed on the New York and Havana Line. She returned about a week ago from her last trip to Havana, and the captain claims that she averaged 15 knots an hour. Admiral Porter, however, declares that not more than thirteen knots an hour could be got out of her.

The "Niagara" is a screw steamer of 2,265 tons burthen, and is almost new. I have not, however, heard that she has as yet been sent to Philadelphia with a view to making the alterations necessary to convert her into a cruizer, or that work has been begun upon her for that purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 466.

Acting Consul Summa to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 60. Consulaire.)
My Lord, *Scutari, le 17 Juin, 1878.*

ME conformant aux ordres que votre Seigneurie a bien voulu m'adresser par son télégramme en date du 13 de ce mois, j'ai eu l'honneur de répéter le télégramme que je vous avais transmis en date du 12 courant, et de vous adresser aussi en date d'aujourd'hui une autre dépêche télégraphique.

J'ai l'honneur maintenant de vous donner, my Lord, les renseignements détaillés.

Le Délégué Monténégrin, Mascho Verbitza, venu à Scutari avec deux adjoints, MM. Blayo Petrovitch et Matanovich, pour régler les différends existant entre le Gouverneur-Général et la Principauté, est réparti pour Cettigné le 11 du mois courant. Le Délégué du Prince Nicolas a déclaré au Vali, Hussein Pacha, tant ici qu'à Podgoritza, que Son Altesse ne ferait pas évacuer les positions de Moamsitch, Leskopolie, Dinosch, occupées par les troupes Monténégrines après l'armistice, et comme le Vali insistait pour cette évacuation, le Délégué déclara qu'il n'était pas autorisé à traiter cette question, qui d'ailleurs sera vidée par le Congrès. Quant à la question relative à la culture de terres en dedans des lignes Monténégrines appartenant aux habitants de Podgoritza, le Délégué a déclaré que les propriétaires désarmés pourraient en toute sûreté cultiver leurs terrains et faucher leurs foins. Malgré ces assurances, et malgré les ordres rigoureux que le Prince Nicolas a donnés aux Monténégrins qui occupent des territoires Albanais de se tenir dans le devoir, et d'éviter toute collision avec les habitants, toutefois ces mesures prudentes n'ont pas suffit à empêcher que la tension existant entre les Monténégrins et les Albanais ne dégénérât en conflit. En effet le 15 de ce mois un engagement a eu lieu dans l'intérieur de Kraïna sur la rive occidentale du lac.

A l'occupation de ce pays par les Monténégrins, les habitants se réfugièrent à Scutari, et avant-hier quelques centaines d'entre eux sont retournés dans leur district pour récolter leurs grains. Il était probable qu'étant nombreux et armés, ils auraient eu des questions avec les Monténégrins, ce qui n'a pas manqué d'arriver. Ils ont attaqué les Monténégrins, et il y a eu de part et d'autre de tués et de blessés.

J'en ai immédiatement entretenu le Gouverneur, lequel a envoyé en toute hâte Riza Pacha, Général de Brigade, à Kraïna, pour s'enquérir des faits, en donnant les ordres les plus rigoureux pour empêcher que des habitants armés puissent pénétrer dans les lignes Monténégrines. En même temps le Vali a télégraphié à Cettigné regrettant le fait, et priant le Prince qu'il veuille aussi donner les ordres les plus stricts et les plus sévères pour que le conflit ne s'étendit pas sur toute la ligne des armées.

Son Altesse a répondu hier au Vali l'informant qu'il avait envoyé sur les lieux Blayo Petrovich pour ouvrir une enquête, et que des ordres rigoureux avaient été donnés aux Monténégrins pour qu'ils se tiennent sur la défensive. En même temps Son Altesse a télégraphié au Corps Consulaire rejetant la responsabilité du conflit sur les autorités de Scutari.

Je ne puis faire à moins de devoir soumettre à votre Seigneurie que le Gouverneur, Hussein Pacha, aurait pû empêcher ce conflit. Ce n'est pas lui qui l'a provoqué, mais il aurait dû donner des ordres rigoureux à ses avant-postes pour empêcher que des hommes armés puissent se rendre sur les territoires occupés par les Monténégrins, d'autant plus que, vu la surexcitation générale des esprits, la moindre cause pourrait motiver un éclat, qui serait désastreux, étant donné que le peuple entier est contraire à toute annexion du territoire au Monténégro.

En effet, le 10 de ce mois une protestation, signée par les habitants de Podgoritza, de Scutari, par les chefs des montagnes, ainsi que par des Mirdites, a été transmise par le télégraphe au Grand Vézir. Les signataires déclarent n'admettre aucune cession de territoire Albanais, et qu'ils s'y opposeraient même par les armes. Ils ont également fait appel par voie télégraphique aux habitants des districts Albanais de Mattia, Dibra, Prisrendi, Yacova, Ipek, Novi-Bazar, et Goussigné demandant leur adhésion à la ligue, et je suis informé que le Comité Albanais réuni à Prisrendi a donné, par voie télégraphique, son adhésion à la ligue, invitant les habitants du district de Scutari à envoyer deux délégués à Prisrendi, où se réuniront les représentants de tous les districts de l'Albanie.

Le 15 de ce mois une nouvelle réunion, tout-à-fait spontanée, a eu lieu ici entre les plus influents Musulmans et Catholiques de Scutari, les chefs de toutes les montagnes, y compris les chefs des Mirdites, ainsi que les chefs de quelques autres districts. Tous à l'unanimité ont rédigé une Protestation, et l'ont transmise par voie télégraphique aux Plénipotentiaires réunis en Congrès à Berlin.

En même temps ils ont remis au Vali, Hussein Pacha, ainsi qu'à tous les Consulats, un original de la Protestation, et j'ai l'honneur d'en transmettre ci-joint copie à votre Seigneurie.

Je crois de mon devoir, my Lord, de soumettre à votre haute appréciation que cette Protestation, loin d'être inspirée par le Gouvernement Turc, ou bien par quel-

ques individus, a été tout-à-fait spontanée de la part du peuple Albanais, soit Musulman, soit Catholique, qui ne pourrait jamais rester indifférent à la moindre annexion du territoire aux Monténégrins, leurs ennemis séculaires.

Si dans cette Protestation les Albanais Catholiques n'ont pas demandé une autonomie, c'est qu'ils étaient persuadés qu'elle n'aurait pas été signée par les Musulmans. Mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que c'est là leur vœu le plus ardent. Cette autonomie leur assurerait une existence en rapport avec la civilisation et le progrès.

J'ai, &c.
(Signed) F. SUMMA.

Inclosure in No. 466.

Protest addressed to the Plenipotentiaries at the Berlin Congress.

Excellences,

LE Traité de San Stéfano, réservé à la révision des Cabinets réunis au Congrès, accorde au Monténégro des agrandissements dans l'Albanie Septentrionale, c'est-à-dire les ports Adriatiques de Antivari et Dulcigno, avec des forteresses et des positions stratégiques, telles que Podgoritza et Spuz, qui appartinrent toujours à ce pays, et lui servirent de défense contre l'ennemi. En vue de cela nous soussrits, au nom de tout le peuple, en vous priant de prendre en considération les calamités qui menacent notre existence, nous avons l'honneur de déclarer que la nation Albanaise, soit Musulmane soit Catholique, par sa race et par sa foi, tout-à-fait différente de celle des Slaves, est unanime dans la résolution de défendre se patrie contre la division de territoire qu'on a projétée, comme contraire à son histoire, à ses intérêts, à ses vœux. Nous vous prions de protéger notre intégrité nationale et territoriale, de nous épargner des conflits désastreux, qui éclateront si l'on voulait effectuer les annexions touchant l'Albanie, de nous ouvrir la voie du développement que nous souhaitons, et de nous faire sentir l'heureuse influence de la civilisation.

Au même temps nous nous permettons d'exprimer nos vœux en envoyant ce télégramme, avec le plus grand nombre possible de signatures.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 467.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 803.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 19, 1878.

I HAVE the satisfaction of informing your Lordship that after prolonged negotiations, the Eastern Telegraph Company have come to an arrangement with the Porte for a concession for establishing direct telegraphic communication between Constantinople and Malta, and for other telegraphic lines. I beg to inclose a Memorandum which Dragoman Marinitch has drawn up, at my request, giving a full account of what has occurred in this matter, in order that your Lordship may be made acquainted with the causes of the delays that have taken place in settling it. It is only necessary for me to add that whilst giving my full official support, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, to the establishment of a direct telegraphic line with England, to which the assent of the Sultan was obtained some months ago, I felt that I could not give to the Company more than the "officious" support to which British subjects are entitled, in their negotiations with respect to the telegraphic lines from Tenedos to Salonica, Volo, and elsewhere.

It appeared to me that the question of a subsidy was one to be discussed by the Company with the Porte, in which I could not properly interfere, and that I was not justified in giving even "officious" support to the demand for a monopoly, which the 11nd Article of the proposed Convention, even in its modified form, was intended to secure to the Company.

I am very glad that the Company and the Porte have now come to terms, as it is of great importance to Her Majesty's Government that England should be in direct telegraphic communication with Constantinople.

I can assure your Lordship that I have done all in my power to assist the agents

of the Company in every way, as far as I believed it to be consistent with my duty to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 467.

M. Marinitch to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Péra, le 17 *Juin*, 1878.

ME conformant aux ordres que j'ai reçus, j'ai l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence les faits suivants:—

A la date du $\frac{4}{16}$ Février dernier un contrat avait été conclu entre l'Administration Télégraphique Impériale Ottomane et "l'Eastern Telegraph Company Limited" de Londres, ayant pour objet la pose, pour compte du Gouvernement Impérial, et au prix de 22,000*l.* sterling, d'un câble sous-marin entre les Dardanelles et Port Tagos. Le but que le Gouvernement Ottoman avait en vue d'atteindre par ce câble était d'éviter, pour ses communications télégraphiques, la nouvelle Principauté de Bulgarie à travers laquelle passaient les lignes de terre. Peu de temps après la signature de ce contrat, et pendant que le vapeur "Chiltern" était en route pour se rendre à sa destination et effectuer la pose du câble contracté, le Gouvernement Impérial s'apercevait que Port Tagos faisait partie, d'après le Traité de San Stéfano, de la Nouvelle Bulgarie qu'on cherchait à éviter par cette combinaison.

Aussi le Gouvernement Impérial pria-t-il "l'Eastern Telegraph Company" de modifier la destination du câble en le posant entre Constantinople et Kemer. Malgré les dépenses et l'embarras qui résultaient pour la Compagnie de cette modification, elle n'a pas fait d'opposition et ordonna au vapeur "Chiltern" de continuer jusqu'à Constantinople et d'effectuer de ce point la pose du câble de Kemer. Mr. Binnay, Surintendant de la Compagnie à Syra, chargé de déterminer, d'accord avec l'Administration Télégraphique, le point d'atterrissement, prenait passage à bord du "Chiltern," qui venait mouiller dans le port de Constantinople le Lundi matin, 24 Mars dernier. A peine débarqué, Mr. Binnay, accompagné de l'Agent à Constantinople de la Compagnie, s'est rendu auprès du Directeur-Général pour déterminer le point d'atterrissement. Pendant cette entrevue, son Excellence Izzet Effendi proposa aux Représentants de la Compagnie de négocier avec lui la pose d'un câble entre Ténédos et Salonique, en ajoutant qu'il importait peu d'avoir une communication sous-marine entre Constantinople et Ténédos, à laquelle il pouvait remédier par des lignes terrestres. Mais ce qui était de la plus haute importance et qui lui avait été suggéré par l'ex-Premier Ministre, Véfik Pacha, c'était une communication sous-marine entre Ténédos et Salonique. Les représentants de la Compagnie entrèrent en négociations relativement au câble Ténédos-Salonique. Izzet Effendi convoqua son Conseil, qui, après de longs débats, finit par arrêter en un seul document le contrat déjà conclu le $\frac{5}{17}$ Février et la nouvelle combinaison relative au câble de Ténédos-Salonique. A cette occasion il fut convenu que la Compagnie ferait abandon des 10,000*l.* sterling stipulées dans le susdit contrat, et en équivalent le Gouvernement Impérial accorderait à la Compagnie la concession et l'exploitation d'un câble entre Constantinople et Salonique.

Sur ces entrefaites le Conseil Télégraphique proposa de modifier pour la troisième fois la destination du câble, qui faisait l'objet du contrat du $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, en le posant du Cap Hellos au Mont Athos. Cette altération créant une nouvelle source de dépenses, a dû être rejetée par les représentants de la Compagnie. En attendant les jours s'écoulaient en pourparlers, en propositions inacceptables, et le "Chiltern" était à Constantinople depuis environ quinze jours avec une dépense journalière de 60*l.* sterling. Il fallait donc arriver à une conclusion quelconque. Les délégués de la Compagnie prirent la résolution d'informer le Directeur-Général que, conformément à la seconde modification introduite dans le contrat du $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, le câble serait définitivement posé entre Kartal et Kemer. En conséquence, l'Acte de la Concession dûment convenu, avait été signé le $\frac{22\ \text{Mars}}{3\ \text{Avril}}$, 1878; et en vertu de l'Article additionnel du contrat en date du $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, 1878, la Compagnie était autorisé de poser immédiatement le câble entre Kartal et Kemer pour donner un commencement d'exécution de la Concession du 3 Avril.

L'Article 8 de la Concession accordait à la Compagnie un délai de trois mois après la date de la ratification pour compléter tout le réseau depuis Constantinople

jusqu'à Salonique. Toutefois, vu l'importance de cette communication, l'Administration Télégraphique Impériale obtenait la promesse formelle que toute cette ligne serait achevée au plus tard dans l'espace de quarante jours. Pleinement convaincu que le Gouvernement Impérial n'aurait pas hésité à ratifier la Convention Télégraphique, et pour être à même d'achever la ligne un moment plus tôt, comme elle l'avait promis, la Compagnie ordonna l'acquisition de la quantité du câble nécessaire pour le prolongement de Kemer jusqu'à Salonique et le fesait embarquer sur un vapeur spécial avec tout le matériel des lignes aériennes, les appareils et les accessoires pour le fonctionnement des bureaux. En attendant la Convention fut soumise au Conseil d'Etat (section des Travaux Publics) qui commença l'examen et la discussion de ses clauses. La section proposa alors diverses modifications que la Compagnie crut devoir refuser d'accepter. Tandis que ces difficultés se produisaient le Premier Ministre d'alors, son Altesse Sadik Pacha, exprima le désir d'apporter à la Convention Télégraphique les modifications suivantes:—

A l'Article 1, au lieu de Ténédos-Salonique, d'aterrir le câble dans le Golfe de Salonique à proximité de Volo avec faculté de le prolonger jusqu'à Salonique.

A l'Article 2, au lieu de "s'engage" le Gouvernement Impérial "fera diriger autant que possible."

A l'Article 3, au lieu de la transmission gratuite de 18,000, porter ce chiffre à 24,000 mots.

A intercaler dans l'Article 1 la phrase suivante, "la Compagnie aura la faculté de mettre un ou deux fils sur la ligne du Gouvernement entre Volo et Vallona, qui seront exploités par un personnel appartenant à la Compagnie, qui prendra aussi à sa charge l'entretien des fils du Gouvernement."

Pour être agréable au Gouvernement et dans le but de faciliter la ratification de la Convention les représentants de la Compagnie avaient accepté toutes ces modifications.

Malheureusement la section des Travaux Publics du Conseil d'Etat, non contente des changements apportés par le Premier Ministre à la Convention, a jugé opportun de proposer à son tour à la Compagnie les modifications suivantes:—

1. Abandon total de la subvention de 12,000 livres sterling.
2. Suppression entière de l'Article 2.
3. Transmission gratuite de 30,000 mots.
4. Réduction du terme de la concession à quarante années.
5. Formuler une demande séparée pour la reconnaissance du câble Syra-Candie ainsi que pour l'établissement de la ligne terrestre en Crète.

Les représentants de la Compagnie, mus par l'esprit de conciliation dont ils sont animés, ont fini par accepter même toutes ces modifications ultérieures proposées par le Conseil d'Etat sauf l'abandon de la subvention. Pour justifier son maintien ils ont allégué que la Compagnie a dû effectuer jusqu'à ce jour des frais et débours considérables s'élevant de 12,000 à 15,000 livres environ pour pouvoir être en mesure de remplir immédiatement les engagements découlant de la Convention, qu'ils considéraient admise en principe.

En présence du double désavantage pour la Compagnie de l'abandon d'une part de la subvention de 12,000 livres, à être payés une fois seulement, et de la suppression de l'autre de l'Article 2 qui leur assurait moralement un peu de trafic, sans aucun engagement formel pour le Gouvernement Impérial, MM. Binney et Serpos ont déclaré, qu'en vertu des instructions qu'ils avaient reçues de Londres, ils rejetaient d'une manière catégorique la Convention telle qu'elle a été modifiée par le Conseil d'Etat et qu'ils revenaient à l'exécution pure et simple du contrat signé le 5/17 Février relatif au câble déjà posé entre Cartal et Kemer et pour lequel le Gouvernement Impérial devra débourser 22,000 livers sterling.

En me conformant aux instructions que j'avais reçues je me suis empressé d'exprimer à Ali Pacha, Président du Conseil d'Etat, les regrets que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté ressentait de voir rejeter la Convention Télégraphique, signé au nom du Gouvernement Impérial par Izzet Effendi et les représentants à Constantinople de "l'Eastern Telegraph Company," sa, la foi de laquelle la Compagnie avait déjà fait des expéditions considérables de matériel. J'ai ajouté aussi à Ali Pacha qu'en présence de cette situation la Compagnie se considérait en droit de formuler des réclamations sérieuses à la charge du Gouvernement Impérial en dommages-intérêts, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique se verrait obligé de soutenir.

Le Président du Conseil d'Etat m'a quitté alors pour se rendre auprès de l'ex-Premier Ministre Sadik Pacha et lui rendre compte de la démarche que je venais de faire. Son Altesse Sadik Pacha donna l'ordre à Ali Pacha de réunir extraordinairement le Conseil d'Etat pour examiner d'urgence la Convention Télégraphique et fâcher d'arriver à amener une entente satisfaisante pour les deux parties.

En effet, le lendemain le Conseil s'est réuni; mais comme les mêmes difficultés et objections ont été soulevées, l'accord n'a pas pu être établi.

Deux jours après j'ai eu une longue entrevue avec le Président du Conseil d'Etat pendant laquelle je me suis attaché à démontrer à Ali Pacha que le Gouvernement Britannique attendait impatiemment la nouvelle de la ratification de la Convention conclue en date du 22 Mars, entre l'Administration Impériale des Télégraphes Ottomans et "l'Eastern Telegraph Company," et qu'il n'était pas juste d'obliger la Compagnie à renoncer à la subvention de 12,000/. sterling après qu'elle avait consenti à supprimer en entier l'Article 2, qui lui assurait un peu de trafic et à faire plusieurs autres modifications non moins importantes.

Le Président du Conseil d'Etat s'est montré inflexible quant à la subvention et m'a fait observer que si même la section l'aurait admise le Conseil des Ministres se serait opposé formellement à ratifier la Convention avec une telle clause.

Son Excellence m'a ajouté que c'était là le seul point sérieux qui empêchait la ratification de la Convention.

Voici comment Ali Pacha explique les motifs qui obligent le Conseil d'Etat à persister dans son refus à admettre le payement de cette subvention.

Le Conseil d'Etat n'a point mission d'examiner le côté politique de l'affaire. Ceci regard le Gouvernement, qui peut ratifier la Convention telle quelle sans la faire même passer du Conseil d'Etat en alléguant à cet effet les motifs qu'il jugerait opportun. Mais que du moment que le Gouvernement ne le fait pas et qu'il la réfère au Conseil d'Etat celui-ci est tenu d'examiner le côté financier et administratif de la Convention et il ne saurait pouvoir l'admettre sans lui faire subir les modifications qui à ses yeux sont jugées nécessaires. Partant de cette base il ne pouvait en conscience imposer au trésor le payment d'une somme de 12,000 livres, eu égard surtout à l'extrême gêne financière où se trouve le pays.

Il est vrai, continua à dire Ali Pacha, que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est engagé à payer à "l'Eastern Telegraph Company," en vertu d'un contrat passé en date du 5/17 Février dernier entre elle et la Direction des Télégraphes Ottomans, la somme de 22,000 livres sterling pour la pose du câble entre Cartal et Kemer; mais il ne faudrait pas perdre de vue, a dit Son Excellence, que ce câble sera cédé à la Compagnie, qui l'exploitera avec les autres câbles pour son compte pendant une période de 40 ans, et que cet avantage seul suffirait pour justifier le refus d'admettre la subvention. Qu'indépendamment de cela la Compagnie, en obtenant cette concession, aura fait reconnaître par le Gouvernement Impérial les câbles déjà posés entre Besika-Ténédos, Ténédos-Chio et Syra-Candie, qui ont été atterris sans l'autorisation préalable de la Sublime Porte.

En obtenant l'autorisation d'établir une ligne terrestre reliant entre elles les stations existant dans l'île de Crète, la Compagnie acquiert, selon Ali Pacha, un autre avantage puisqu'elle se déchargera d'un service dont le maintien lui cause beaucoup de frais.

Qu'enfin le prolongement du câble entre Cartal, Kemer, Ténédos et Salonique ne forme qu'une seule et même ligne.

Que quant à la suppression de l'Article 2, dont le maintien même avec certaines modifications avait décidé la Compagnie à faire abandon de la subvention, était aux yeux du Conseil d'Etat une chose inadmissible qui n'avait pas sa raison d'être, puisqu'il était contraire aux dispositions de la Convention Télégraphique Internationale de St. Pétersbourg.

Sur ces entrefaites Mehemed Ruchdi Pacha ayant été nommé Grand Vezir, Aly Pacha s'est empressé de voir son Altesse pour prendre ses ordres et terminer l'affaire. Mais comme son Altesse insistait sur la suppression de la subvention l'entente devenait toujours impossible malgré toutes les concessions que la Compagnie avait faites. Mehemed Ruchdi Pacha n'a pas tardé à être relevé de ses fonctions et à être remplacé par Safvet Pacha. Suivant les ordres que j'avais reçus, je me suis fait un devoir de me rendre auprès du nouveau Grand Vezir pour décider son Altesse à autoriser le Président du Conseil d'Etat à maintenir le paiement de la subvention de 12,000 livres sterlings et à la prier de vouloir bien faire ratifier d'urgence la Convention, attendu que la Compagnie avait déjà renoncé à l'Article 2. Son Altesse Safvet Pacha m'a répondu qu'elle partageait entièrement l'avis du Conseil d'Etat et m'a engagé fortement à suggérer aux représentants de la Compagnie de renoncer à la subvention, d'autant plus, a-t-elle ajouté, que le Gouvernement Ottoman ne jugeait pas l'établissement de cette ligne comme indispensable. Son Altesse, pour être agréable à

l'Ambassade, a donné en ma présence les instructions nécessaires à Ali Pacha d'examiner d'urgence la Convention, de la confirmer et de la soumettre immédiatement au Conseil des Ministres pour pouvoir être ratifiée sans perte de temps. Je me suis empressé de communiquer aux représentants de la Compagnie le résultat de mes démarches, mais ces messieurs, après en avoir référé à leurs supérieurs, ont reçu l'ordre de rejeter la Convention et ils étaient à la veille de formuler leur protestation lorsqu'une nouvelle démarche auprès du Grand Vezir a établi l'accord entre le Conseil d'Etat et les représentants de la Compagnie, qui ont fini par consentir à renoncer à la subvention de 12,000 livres. En conséquence, les 8,000 livres que la Compagnie avait déjà reçues à compte des 22,000 qui lui revenaient pour la pose du câble entre Cattaro et Komer, devront être restituées au Gouvernement Ottoman, après une entente préalable entre les représentants de la Compagnie et la Direction Impériale des Télégraphes.

Les représentants de la Compagnie ont été autorisés par le Grand Vezir à poser immédiatement le câble, sans attendre l'accomplissement des formalités requises en pareilles circonstances.

La Compagnie de "l'Eastern Telegraph" ayant accepté la concession dans ces termes, elle vient d'autoriser ses agents d'en informer le Gouvernement Impérial, en donnant, en même temps, les ordres nécessaires pour la prompte exécution de ses engagements.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) —— MARINITCH.

No. 468.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 392.) *Athens, June 21, 1878.*

My Lord,

SIR CHARLES SEBRIGHT, Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu, has forwarded to me in a despatch, of which I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy to your Lordship, a copy of his despatch to your Lordship marked No. 33, Political, of the 13th instant. In this despatch to your Lordship Consul Sebright transmits copy of a letter from Ali Riza Pasha, commanding the Turkish troops at Arta, to Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio at Santa Maura, complaining of attacks upon his soldiers by members of a family named Contzivalis.

As it appears from Sir Charles Sebright's despatch to me that the aggressor, Contzivalis, is a Greek who was liberated from the gaol at Arta at the instance of M. Onofrio, I have addressed a letter to M. Caumoundouros, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, calling his attention to the proceedings of Contzivalis, and which I state I consider I am entitled to do, as he owes his liberty to the interference of a British authority, with a view of his bringing them, should he think fit, to the notice of the Nomarch of Acarnania.

I have likewise the honour to inclose herewith a translation of an extract from the "Ephimeris" newspaper of to-day, stating that some insurgents on their way to Botzi (the village mentioned in Ali Riza Pacha's letter to M. Onofrio as the place where Contzivalis has made his attacks) suddenly fired upon the Turks and killed two non-commissioned officers and two soldiers, whilst of the insurgents only one had was wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 468.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to Mr. Wyndham.

(Confidential.) *Corfu, June 18, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to accompany, for your information, copy of my covering despatch to the Marquis of Salisbury in transmitting to his Lordship the letter of Ali Riza Pasha, of Arta, to Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio at Santa Maura (marked No. 5), in my report by last week's mail to the Legation, of Mr. Onofrio's mission to the refugees on the Acarnanian frontier.

I would now crave permission to offer a few remarks on this document in addition to those conveyed in the covering despatch in question, and which, I respectfully conceive, have a very important bearing on the subject of it.

2. Ali Pasha states: "Que quelques personnes de la famille Cutzivalis viennent souvent au village de Botzi" (on Turkish territory) "et tirent des coups de fusil contre les soldats. Ils ont blessé un soldat."

3. This Cutzivalis, it appears, is one of two brothers, political intriguants, detained as prisoners in the gaol of Arta, and liberated at Mr. Onofrio's suggestion, as coming within the terms of the amnesty proclaimed by the Porte, and who have repaid this act of clemency by taking up arms against their legitimate Sovereign and associating themselves with the enemies of their country.

4. Now allow me to remind you that Mr. Onofrio's mission was suggested by yourself and carried out under my instructions, and I therefore cannot help feeling that the Legation is entitled to demand from the Hellenic Government the arrest of this ruffian Cutzivalis, and his delivery up to justice.

5. I am ready to admit that diplomatic action ought to be marked by perfect courtesy, mildness, and moderation, but this only to a certain limit, and that limit is bloodshedding. By a law of Divine Providence since the beginning of the world bloodshedding is to be retributed with blood, and no distinction of race or creed is admissible.

6. The Greeks no doubt are slow to admit that they may not assassinate a Turk whenever a favourable chance offers, but to this doctrine Englishmen at least cannot subscribe; and having interfered on so recent an occasion to make peace between the two races, we are bound, I humbly conceive, to enforce as much as in us lays, a due respect for the laws of justice and humanity by either party without fear or favour.

Respectfully submitting these reflections to your indulgent consideration, I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT

Inclosure 2 in No. 468.

Mr. Wyndham to M. Caumoundouros.

(Particulière.) *Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique, ce 21 Juin, 1878.*

Mon cher Ministre,

ALI RIZA PACHA a écrit le 3 Juin à M. Onofrio, Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté la Reine à Santa Maura, au sujet du retour de familles qui s'étaient réfugiées en Grèce, et en même temps il s'est plaint que quelques personnes de la famille Cutzivalis viennent souvent au village de Botzi et tirent des coups de fusil contre ses soldats; il ajoute qu'elles ont blessé un soldat, mais qu'ayant donné sa parole à M. Onofrio de ne pas les poursuivre, il ne les poursuit pas, mais il prie M. Onofrio en même temps d'avoir la bonté de faire le nécessaire pour que cela ne soit pas répété, autrement il sera obligé d'ordonner à ses soldats de les poursuivre. Hier j'ai reçu une dépêche de Sir Charles Sebright, Consul de Sa Majesté à Corfu, attirant mon attention à la lettre susmentionnée et me faisant remarquer qu'il y a lieu à croire que le Sieur Contzivalis dont il s'agit est un de deux frères qui se trouvaient en prison à Arta et qui ont été libérés par suite des démarches faites auprès des autorités Ottomanes par M. Onofrio, qui a demandé que les frères Contzivalis soient compris dans l'amnestie accordée par la Porte à tous ceux qui avaient été compromis par leur participation à l'insurrection en Thessalie et Epire.

Le nommé Cutzivalis ayant été libéré par suite des démarches faites par une autorité Anglaise agissant sous mes ordres, je le crois tout spécialement de mon devoir de vous signaler les faits dont cet individu est aujourd'hui accusé, et de vous exprimer la peine avec laquelle je les ai appris.

Vous croirez peut-être utile, mon cher Ministre, d'y attirer l'attention du Nomarque d'Acarnanie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 468.

Extract from the "Ephimeris" of June $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

(Translation.)

WE hear from Kravassara:—

"As far as concerns Radovitzi, I must tell you that shots are daily exchanged with the Turks. Last Saturday some Radovitzians, insurgents on their way to the village Bozli, suddenly fired upon the Turks and killed two non-commissioned officers and two soldiers, whilst of the insurgents only one lad was wounded."

No. 469.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 29.*)

India Office, June 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India, dated the 10th instant, relative to the mobilization of the Russian forces in Central Asia, and a projected Russian Embassy to Cabul.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

Inclosure in No. 469.

The Viceroy of India to Viscount Cranbrook.

Simla, June 10, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

IN continuation of my telegram of the 7th June, and with reference to your letter of 9th May, we have received further corroborative information from various sources of mobilization of Russian forces in Central Asia, opening of road towards Afghanistan, and pressure on Ameer to receive important Russian Embassy.

These reports not yet fully substantiated, and their degree of importance cannot be precisely ascertained, but we transmit information for such use as may be considered desirable.

No. 470.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 29.*)

India Office, June 28, 1878.

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the inclosed two copies of Mr. Robert Michell's Abstract No. XXIII for the present year on the subject of Batoum.

Inclosure in No. 470.

Russian Abstract No. XXIII, 1878.

Batoum; its Commercial Importance to England and Russia. By J. Vatslik.

(From the "Russian World," No. 135, June 1.)

THERE is not a single clause in the Treaty of San Stefano which England can in fact point out as affecting British interests in the East. The San Stefano Treaty touches neither the question of Constantinople, nor that of the Bosphorus or Dardanelles; it does not touch the question of Egypt and the Suez Canal, nor does it in any one word refer to the Persian Gulf, so that it entirely avoids those main points, which by the present British Cabinet are styled "British interests." The only one clause (XIXc) of

the Treaty which has affected the lively interest of England is the one which refers to the Russian annexation of Batoum, since it is only through the annexation of Batoum that Russia could freely pass her products into all the markets of Central Asia, always possessing the power, if not to intercept the English trade, then to compete with England on the most favourable terms in the Asiatic Khanats, in Khiva, Bokhara, Herat, Afghanistan, and in Khorassan. This is the clause to which the English do not directly object, but which has doubtless in a measure aroused them to all that the Cabinet of Lord Beaconsfield has already done against Russia, and still intends to carry out, in order to annul clause XIXc, unless it finds some corresponding compensation for the loss of Batoum, which is of importance both politically and commercially.

It was always the eager desire of English politicians to extend their political influence over the Central Asian States by means of their trade. Although they have possessed themselves of India and of the Punjab, yet their trade penetrates very slowly into Afghanistan, and has with difficulty opened a way beyond the Hindu Kush to Bokhara, Khiva, and Khorassan. In the middle of the last century the English sent out special agents to ascertain the most convenient passage for English merchandize to Persia and further into Central Asia. No better routes were then discovered than (1) by sea from Bushire, in the Persian Gulf, through Shiraz, Isfahan, Kashan, Kum, and Teheran; (2) from Bender Abas, through Kerman and Yezd, or through Hubbiz, Birdjan, into Khorassan and to Herat; and (3) by way of the Black Sea from Trebizond through Gomish-Khan, Baiburt, Erzeroum, Alashkert, Bayazid, to Azerbaidjan.

It was in the above directions that British commerce began to flow, finding markets in Tabriz, Isfahan, Teheran, Herat, Khiva and Bokhara. Later, the English took to sending their merchandize through the Caucasus, across the Caspian to Astrabad, and from thence to Meshed, Herat, and into the Uzbeg States of Central Asia, or from Astrabad through the Turcoman country to Merv and Bokhara.

In order to be in a position to compete with the English transit trade from Trebizond through Erzeroum and Tabriz, the Russian Government established the port of Poti, and undertook the laying down of a railway from Poti to Baku, through Tiflis, for the purpose of opening up for the transit trade a route through trans-Caucasia, and across the Caspian to Mazanderan, &c.

When the section of the line from Poti to Tiflis was completed, Persian caravans did indeed abandon the longer road from Tabriz to Trebizond, and they have since taken the road through Julfa to Poti, so that trans-Caucasia now profits, though in a small degree, by the transit trade.

In order to promote the object in view, the Russian Government abolished the transit duty on foreign Colonial goods passing through trans-Caucasia. This was, without doubt, an unpractical measure, but it was in all probability adopted under the conviction that Russian goods could not in any case compete with those of Western Europe coming through Trebizond into Persia, where the latter really drove all Russian merchandize from all the markets south of the Elburz which skirt the shores of the Caspian.

At the same time the foreign merchandize which inundated Persia could not penetrate to the south coast of the Caspian, because there were no convenient routes over the Elburz mountains, therefore Russian merchandize held exclusive possession of the markets on that coast; this, however, did not last long.

On the 5th April, 1864, the Russian Government enabled the English to realize their cherished object; it extended the right of free transit from Tiflis to Baku and thence by sea to the Persian coast of the Caspian, thus depriving Russian trade of that last although very insignificant market.

Many Russian Consuls in Persia have directed the attention of the Government to the evil effects and inconvenience of free transit through trans-Caucasia, yet nothing has been done to exclude English manufactures from the Central Asian markets; this is, perhaps, attributable to the fact that our trade with the Persian coast was not of sufficient importance to justify the sacrifice of the interests of the trans-Caucasian region. This may, indeed, have been the case prior to the year 1864, but since then circumstances have materially altered in Central Asia, for after the occupation of Tashkend, Samarcand, Khiva, and Ferghana, the markets of Asia have become much more accessible. Our trade in those countries has largely developed in consequence of the obviation of that system of oppression which is due to the Russian arms, and English merchandize entering the markets of Central Asia from India cannot, excepting in a few instances, compete with Russian produce; the difficulties of

transport, and the exaction of duty by numerous native rulers, strongly affect the prices of English manufactures. After our occupation of Krasnovodsk, the Turcomans almost entirely ceased to attack caravans proceeding from Astrabad to Khiva and Merv; this increased the influx of foreign goods, and enabled the English considerably to lower their prices.

The Imperial Chancellor, Prince Gortchakow, strove in 1869 to do away with the free transit of foreign merchandize through trans-Caucasia. A special committee was at that time appointed to investigate the matter. The committee was composed of his Imperial Highness the Lieutenant of the Caucasus, the Prince-Chancellor, the Minister for War, the Ministers of Finance and of the Interior, and the Director of the Ministry of Ways and Communications, and others, and it was presided over by his Imperial Highness the General-Admiral (Grand Duke Constantine). This committee, holding two sittings in January 1870, determined upon a temporary continuation of the free transit both to Julfa and to Baku, but resolved upon the imposition of a duty, according to the European Tariff, on all goods destined for Asia and passing through Krasnovodsk. The free transit to Baku was, however, to cease so soon as it should be observed, and the importation of English manufactures increased to a degree detrimental to Russian trade.

From that time the quantity of foreign merchandize imported through Persia rapidly and considerably increased, so that from the year 1864 to that of 1873 its value rose from 902,305 roubles to 2,643,164 roubles. It is interesting, however, to find that this transit trade declined after each success obtained by our arms in Central Asia. Thus, in 1866, when we captured Tashkend, the trade fell off in value by 700,000 roubles, and manufactures in transit were reduced by 230,000 roubles. The occupation of Samarcand reduced the transport of manufactured goods by 80,000 roubles, as compared with the figure for the year previous. From that time until 1871 the transit trade continued to decrease. During the Khiva campaign in 1873 the English hurried forward their merchandize, passing a consignment to the value of 2,643,164 roubles, *i.e.*, four times as much as had been forwarded in the previous year.

The concession for a railway from Tiflis to Baku was granted under the same condition, that the free transit through trans-Caucasia should at some future time be done away with, and that Russia did contemplate taking advantage, at some time or another, of a foreign transit trade for the increase of her revenues.

Under such favourable conditions and availing itself of improved communications in trans-Caucasia, the English trade became established along the road from Poti to Baku, to Northern Persia, and Astrabad and Meshed became enormous depôts of English produce, similar to Tabriz and Shiraz, from whence it penetrated by three different ways into Central Asia.

Our own trade, on the other hand, takes the roads into Central Asia which are three times as long, and which are consequently three times as costly, so that, while our manufactures are inferior, we cannot compete with England in the markets of Khiva or Bokhara. Even if the qualities were the same, English merchandize would of necessity be cheaper than ours.

If our Government has not hitherto determined upon energetic action in favour of our own commerce in the above direction, if it has not done away with the free transit of foreign colonial merchandise through trans-Caucasia, if it has not imposed a high duty on English goods; and if it has not absolutely and unconditionally prohibited the English transit trade through trans-Caucasia into Persia, it is only because it has feared that the English trade would pass direct through Batoum, instead of through Poti and Baku, penetrating from those places into trans-Caucasia as contraband, or proceeding to Tabriz and from there taking the ordinary direction to Central Asia.

This was always to be apprehended so long as Batoum remained in the possession of Turkey. The port of Batoum may unhesitatingly be called the key of English commerce in Central Asia.

But so soon as it is in the possession of Russia our Government will no longer be fettered by apprehensions of English trade avoiding Russian custom-houses as easily as before.

Having taken possession of Batoum, with its port, which is the best in the Black Sea, with its neighbourhood, and with the basin of the Charokh-Su, and having annexed Ardahan, Kars, and Bayazid, as far as Saghanlúk, Russia will either retain control of the Anglo-Asiatic transit trade, or she will push back that trade as far as those tracks which it pursued until 1864, *i.e.*, by way of Trebizond, Erzeroum, and the Van provinces, which will afford the only channel for the penetration of English

merchandise into Persia, to its chief depôt in Tabriz. This road is considerably longer, more expensive, and more insecure than the road through trans-Caucasia, consequently it is more disadvantageous to the English. Russia will thus be able to obviate competition with English manufactures on her own premises.

In a word, the annexation of Batoum will enable Russia to direct the Central Asian trade according to her own pleasure, and in favour of Russian manufacturing produce and of Russian trade, which she has not hitherto been able to do. The Caucasian transit trade will then no longer serve interests which counteract the objects aimed at by the Russian Government in Turkestan. From India only cambrics (for turbans) and indigo are admitted into Turkestan, on payment, however, of a duty of 50 per cent., while all other English manufactures have been prohibited since the 2nd (14th) April, 1868.

The principles so distinctly determining our commercial policy in Central Asia are very distasteful to the English, and we have in mind the complaints against them which were made by Sir Douglas Forsyth, the well known Anglo-Indian diplomat, and by Sir (Andrew) Buchanan, the then English Ambassador, while they advocated the principles of free trade.

It was observed by M. Strémoúkhof, the then Director of the Asiatic Department, "that, however admirable might be the principles of free trade, England herself had not adopted them before she had attained perfection in manufactures. Russia is yet far from that stage, and, therefore, however much we may desire to meet the wishes of England, we must consider our own interests before all."

In his circular note of the 1st April, the Marquis of Salisbury, while dilating extensively on the common interests of Europe, affected, as it would appear, by the Treaty of San Stefano, either consciously or unconsciously styles the interests of England the "common interests of Europe," which, in the event of a rectification of frontier in Armenia, might be made to suffer through any impediment in the way of European trade from Trebizond to Persia. Lord Salisbury plainly says that the Treaty of San Stefano places Russia in a position from which she can restrict the European commercial system by means of prohibitive measures. We are of opinion that the Marquis of Salisbury is not so *naïve* as might be thought judging from this statement. He could not be ignorant of the fact that no new prohibitive barriers are established by the San Stefano Treaty on the road from Trebizond into Persia, and that this route through Erzoroum and Bayazid remains as it was, with, perhaps, the difference that a Russian custom-house will, doubtless, be established in Bayazid, where English merchandise will be charged with a duty according to the European tariff, as in Krasnovodsk.

Had the Marquis of Salisbury been candid in his foggy circular, he would perhaps not have complained of the Trebizond-Erzeroum route, and he would have explicitly said that it was Batoum and the rectification of the Armenian frontier which deeply affected the "interest of England," although they did not in any way concern the common interests of Europe, to whom it would in every case be a matter of perfect indifference whether or not that town were annexed to Russia in the sense of the Treaty.

Batoum is the only good port on that coast. As regards Russian commerce and the security of the Russian dominions, it is of great importance. The annexation of Batoum would be the only positive advantage gained by Russia from a war which she waged singly, and which cost her so much. But it would not be a cession equal to the money indemnity which might be claimed. If, however, the Imperial Chancellor has so prized the value of Batoum in the Pro-Memorandum of the 28th March (9th April), we are satisfied, and we cannot comprehend how diplomacy can deprive Russia of this "single positive advantage" resulting from so trying a war.

If the English prize the free passage through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus—if they have resolved on the occupation of Gallipoli and on converting it into a second Gibraltar—if they have violated the clause of the Treaty of Paris by passing their ships into the Sea of Marmora—if they have shown such vigour in preparing for a war with Russia, it has not been for the sake of limiting or delineating the confines of Bulgaria or Montenegro, but distinctly on account of Batoum, the key of English commercial interests in Central Asia. Should Batoum remain in the hands of the Turks the English will no longer disguise their desire to obtain practically a hold on that point, which is of such value to their commerce.

(Signed) ROBERT MICHELL.

June 24, 1878.

No. 471.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 29.*)

Admiralty, June 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying despatch from the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean station, dated 20th June, forwarding a Report of the proceedings of Her Majesty's ship "Invincible" on a cruize to Enos, Dédéagatch, and Makri.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

P. S.—It is requested that the inclosure may be returned.

Inclosure 1 in No. 471.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Alexandra," at Prince's Islands, June 20, 1878.

FORWARDED for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 471.

Captain Brine to the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's Ships, Port Baklar.

"Invincible," at Port Baklar, June 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell, K.C.B., V.C., that, in pursuance of his orders, I left Port Baklar at 8 P.M. on the 12th instant, and anchored off Enos on the following morning.

2. Upon landing, I was received at the Custom-house by the Russian Commandant and the British Vice-Consul, and after having received definite information respecting the state of affairs in that neighbourhood, I proceeded in the "Invincible" to Dédéagatch, and anchored there the same evening.

3. At Dédéagatch I found that the British Consul was temporarily absent at Adrianople, but I received all the information that I required from the French Consul who was acting for him, and from Mr. Vève, a shipbroker, who had formerly performed the duties there of British Consular Agent.

4. On Friday, the 14th instant, I anchored off Makri, and returned this day to Port Baklar.

5. At Enos the greater portion of the Russian troops have been withdrawn, partly on account of their sickly state, and also to strengthen the force at Ipsala, and there are at present only about 200 Russian infantry and 500 Circassians in the garrison. At Dédéagatch there was a force of 800 Russian infantry and 100 Cossacks.

6. Our Vice-Consul at Enos stated that there were no disturbances or grave irregularities being committed in that neighbourhood, but at Dédéagatch I was informed that there was much distress in the adjacent country and around Makri, caused by Bulgarians, who, in small roving bands of twenty or thirty men, pillaged the Turkish farms and had murdered several of the Turkish inhabitants.

7. With the exception of these local acts of brigandage, the country between Enos and Makri was undisturbed, and there are no considerable movements of Russian troops to report.

8. There has been much sickness at and near Enos, and several convoys of Russian invalids have lately been sent away to Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LINDESAY BRINE.

"Agincourt," at Gallipoli, June 16, 1878.

Submitted for the information of the Commander-in-chief.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL, *Rear-Admiral.*

Vice-Admiral G. Phipps Hornby,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 472.

Sir J. Anderson to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received June 29.*)

The Eastern Telegraph Company (Limited),
66, Old Broad Street, E.C., London,
June 29, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the absence of Mr. Pender I beg to hand you a copy of a telegram received from our Superintendent in Crete, as follows:—

"Friday afternoon.—Turkish Admiral insists that European ships must leave anchorage before Canea. News from Rettimo alarming. Irregulars concentrating outside town, menacing inhabitants. Consuls asked European man-of-war for protection."

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES ANDERSON,
Managing Director.

No. 473.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 628.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 28, 1878, 4 P.M.*

DR. CULLEN, who has been sent by the International Fund to distribute relief to the Mussulmans who have been driven by the Russians and Bulgarians from their homes in the plains, and have taken refuge on the slopes of Mount Rhodope, reports that in the district of Yenije there are upwards of 10,000 refugees; in the town of Uskupelu about 2,500, of whom 742 are widows and orphans, and in the utmost misery; and in the district of Gulmidjina 51,200. All these people are almost destitute of clothing, and starving. Can no measures be taken to insure protection to these poor creatures, and that they may return to their villages? The refugees here are also in the greatest want, but although funds could be found to send them back to their homes, no protection can be assured them against massacre and outrage.

No. 474.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 629.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 28, 1878, 10·15 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER begs me to state to your Lordship that the pecuniary indemnity which the Porte was called upon to pay to Russia under the Treaty of San Stefano as fixed in paper roubles, coin francs, amounted to 32,000,000 sterling, and not to 40,000,000, and that he has papers in his possession to prove this.

He earnestly requests your Lordship to prevent extension of Servia and Montenegro over Albanian territory. Albanian Chiefs have presented a petition to me similar to that sent to your Lordship and Lord Beaconsfield, protesting against this extension, and I understand they are making preparations to resist it by force of arms.

No. 475.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 630.) *Therapia, June 28, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE done all in my power to induce the Porte to accept the Austrian proposals for the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At a Council of Ministers and high notables of the Empire, civil, religious, and military, held yesterday under the presidency of the Sultan, it was unanimously decided that there was no necessity nor justification for Austria to occupy these provinces. The Porte undertakes to give efficient protection to the refugees who may return, and to introduce all desirable reforms. Grand Vizier states that it is hopeless to expect a modification of this decision unless Austria were prepared to enter into a proper Convention with Turkey. As yet, the communications of the Austrian Ambassador have been without date or signature, and after Austria's conduct from the commencement of the insurrection, throughout the Servian war, and up to this time, the Porte declares that it cannot but view anything she may propose with the gravest suspicion. There is a very strong feeling of indignation against Austria.

I understand Porte has informed its Plenipotentiaries that if the Congress should decide upon the occupation or annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, it must yield, but it will not undertake to say that the entry of Austrian troops will not lead to bloodshed. Count Zichy was misinformed when he told me that the opposition came from the Sultan alone. His Majesty can only act upon the decision of the Great National Council that he has felt it necessary to call together to consider a question of so much moment to his Empire as the giving up of two provinces, one of which has a population of 250,000 Mussulmans.

No. 476.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 29.*)

Tehran, June 29, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

CAPTAIN NAPIER has telegraphed proposing that Abol Hassan Khrene should accompany him to Akhal. He suggests political advantages of this Persian officer, future Chief of Koochan, being associated with him, and good effect it will produce on Turcomans and Persian border, rendering delay for hostages moreover needless. I have pressed this arrangement on the Persian Government, but they will not hear of it on the grounds that Abol Hassan Khrene having been recently in revolt against Government, and being now in opposition and full of resentment towards his father, the Chief of Koochan, he would, if allowed to proceed to Akhal, take advantage of his intimacy and influence with the Turcoman Chiefs to create mischief in Koochan, and they believe would inevitably involve the Government in serious embarrassment. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, however, expresses his readiness to facilitate, through Prince Governors of Khorassan, Captain Napier's journey to Akhal.

No. 477.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Cross.—(*Received June 29, 10·30 P.M.*)

Berlin, June 29, 1878, 7 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING figures sent to Constantinople to-day:—

I have communicated your two telegrams as to Rhodope insurgents to Russian Ambassador; he promises to do all he can to stop effusion of blood and protect refugees.

No. 478.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 82. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 13, 1878.*

PRINCE MILAN, who was to leave to-day for Old Servia, has postponed his journey till Monday, owing to the Ministers here requiring his presence a while longer, but as the Skuptchina will only be opened at Kraljugevatz on the 7th of next month, I was anxious to find out why the Prince should leave so much before the time. It appears that the Bulgarian Committees in Old Servia are making such an agitation against the incorporation of these provinces to Servia, that it is deemed necessary for the Prince to counteract the movement by his presence on the spot.

Meanwhile I have ascertained on good authority, and my following despatch will give your Lordship an idea of their composition, that the numerous petitions for annexation to Servia, with which M. Ristich provided himself before he started for Berlin, and which he intends to present as proofs of the national wish of the population of Old Servia to revert to the mother country, are absolutely unreliable, and indeed in some cases entirely fabricated.

The news of the mobilization of the Austrian army on the Bosnian and Transylvanian frontiers has created a very lively excitement in the population here, who always dread any show of resolution on the part of their powerful neighbour, a feeling which is common to all Slavs, of whatever nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 478.

Petition printed in the "Srbske Novine" of May 30 (o.s.), 1878.

(Translation.)
Your Highness, most gracious Sir,

IN this very serious and grave time, when the fate of these countries is decided, which once were integral parts of the Servian State in which Servians live, it is the duty of Servians to raise their voice from all Servian countries, that it may be heard everywhere, and also understood, that they are Servians and wish to be united with Servia. On account of this we subsigned, who fled here from Turkish oppression from Old Servia, from the Nahias of Petch, Prizren, Tetovo, Skoplic, Kumanovo, Veles, Kitchevo, Dibra, Okhrida, Bitolia, Prilep, and others, to place ourselves under the protection of Servian laws, and since our brethren who remained at home, and do not enjoy the privilege to express their wishes, we regard ourselves as the only representatives of the above-named districts, and take the liberty to express in their name and lay before your Highness their humble petition, expressing our most sincere wish, as did last year also our brethren themselves, that the above said nahias might be united under the House of Obrenovitch, as have been our ancestors once under the House of Nemanitch.

This is our true wish, which no force can us force to recall or to change. Guided by this wish, our ancestors came in the beginning of this century to fight for the deliverance from our common enemy, not only from the said nahias, but also yet from others more remote ones, to fight for liberty, the Holy Cross, and our nationality; and with God's help there was delivered a portion of the Servian nation, the present Servian Principality; from this time to this day the Principality remains a pillar on the Balkan Peninsula, around which the Servians of these, as also of other countries, gather themselves. And when you, serene Sir, two years ago solemnly declared war to Turkey, with the view to finish the commenced work of deliverance of the whole Serbendom, there came from the most remote countries of the ancient Servian State, men to participate with their swords in hands in the deliverance of this nation.

Serene Sir, the Servian nation in old Servia is surrounded by different nationalities, maltreated on all sides from the time of the fatal day of Kossovo till to-day, the Turks torment, torture, spoliate, force Servians to embrace Mahommedanism, and kill them.

Knowing that we are Servians, descendants of ancient Servians, and that these countries formed once parts of the ancient Servian State, of which testify yet to-day the existing churches and monasteries, towns, forts, and many other monuments of

different kind, as also our language, and till now preserved ancient customs and manners, in appealing on all these matters we beg you, serene Sir, to do all what is in your power to fulfil our national wish, so that the people living in those said nahias, as also in those yet more remote ones, might be examined, to say to which nation the people there are more allied by blood, in order that they might be united with it, which will be the Servian nation, since there exists no difference which would or could separate us.

We remain, &c.

(Now follow names from the following nahias: Kitchevo, Dibra, Okhrida, Bitolia, Veles, Kumanovo, Skoplie, Tetovo, Prizren, and Petch.)

Belgrade, May 18, 1878.

No. 479.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 21. Political.) *Ragusa, June* 13, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the 9th instant the military authorities in Dalmatia received instructions to mobilize the troops, and to hold themselves in readiness to march by the 21st of the month.

According to the Austrian system the placing of the army on a war footing occasions a very considerable augmentation, more particularly in the infantry. A company, which in ordinary times comes up to 60 or 70 men, is increased to 211; and this is effected in a few days by the reserves being called out to join their respective regiments.

The announcement has caused considerable excitement here and anxiety in Montenegro. The military, as yet, are ignorant as to whether they will be called upon to occupy the Turkish provinces, or whether the mobilization is intended as a menace to Montenegro in the event of the latter showing any unwillingness to evacuate certain positions which the Congress may decide should no longer be occupied by her.

At present I can scarcely believe the last version to be the correct one, as the troops in Dalmatia, now 12,000 strong, would, when placed on a war footing, be increased to 24,000 only.

Such a force, supposing the whole of it could be spared, would be insufficient as a menace to Montenegro, who, with her 20,000 men, considers herself perfectly able to defend her frontier against three or four times that number of the best disciplined troops, and would, consequently, be in no way intimidated by so small a force. According to the opinion entertained by the most competent judges in such matters, an attacking force, in order to insure success, would be required five times greater than that of the Montenegrins.

The military authorities state that should the troops in Croatia and Slavonia be also mobilized, some light would be thrown on the subject as to their destination.

No intelligence of the kind, however, has as yet been received here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 480.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 39. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, June* 13, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38, Political, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that all agitation in this town has now subsided, and no disturbance is any longer apprehended. The Mussulmans held several very stormy meetings, but the counsels of the more moderate and intelligent party prevailed, and finally eleven individuals were appointed representatives of the Moslem population to draw up a statement of their grievances and demands, and it was also decided that

four Orthodox Christians, two Catholics, and two Jews, should be invited to take part in those deliberations which concerned the whole people.

The chief grievance of the Mahommedans is connected with their military service. They do not object to it *per se*, but they complain that the men are not properly cared for, that they are ill-treated by the officers, that these latter carry on a system of theft and fraud at the expense of the men, and above all, that the present Commander, Vely Pasha, is negligent of his duty, and shows complete indifference as to the condition and welfare of the troops under his command. They especially find fault with the treatment of the Mustahfiz, or territorial army. This force is supposed to consist of men who have completed their service in the Nizam and Redif, but when the war with Russia broke out no such force existed, as the conscription had not been introduced long enough in Bosnia. A body of about 9,000 men, however, was enrolled under the name of Mustahfiz, consisting chiefly of those who, though still in the prime of life, had escaped military service by being beyond the prescribed age when the conscription was first enforced. They are almost all married men, and the greatest misery has been entailed on their families by the force having been kept under arms so long. They with perfect justice say that either these men should be sent to their homes, or that they should be properly clothed like the other branches of the army, and some provision made for their families, who are, in many instances, reduced to beggary and starvation. In spite, however, of these grievances, they have wisely determined on not opposing the embodiment of the third class of Redif, and the men are now beginning to come in.

In the second place, they complain of the manner in which the peasants' horses are forcibly seized in town for the service of the Government. This system was abolished nearly three years ago by the Imperial Commissioner, Server Pasha, it being one of the greatest grievances of the country, but it has gradually been reverted to again. At all events, the people say, let the Government properly requisition baggage animals from the villages, and not, whenever a battalion of troops moves or ammunition has to be transported, seize forcibly on the first horses that come to town.

Fault is also found with the local authorities for not taking proper measures to ensure public security, the country having become so unsafe that travelling in the province is attended by considerable risk. I hardly think, however, that they are entirely to blame in this matter. In the first place, the police force has been reduced by orders from Constantinople, and in the next, the malefactors, who are chiefly deserters from the army, are in many instances sheltered and protected by influential native Mussulmans. The famous Hadji Loys is still at large, and the Governor-General assures me that he has positive proof of two Bosnia police officers, who had received money for his apprehension, having been in his company and connived at his escape. For this they have been condemned to fifteen years' penal servitude, and his Excellency has written to the Porte to confirm the sentence. The Zaptieh officer, Binbashi Mahmoud Aga, now in pursuit of Hadji Loys, reports that he has escaped from Bosnia and has gone towards Prizrend, but Mazhar Pasha seems to doubt the truth of this information.

Lastly, there is a very strong feeling against the Mektoubgee, or Chief Secretary of the Vilayet, Tevfik Bey. He bears the character of an intriguer and seditionary, and his removal from the province will, it is said, be insisted on. In a former despatch, No. 7, Political, of the 11th February, I referred to this official and to Mazhar Pasha's dissatisfaction with his conduct. His Excellency at that time made no secret of the opinion he entertained of him, and it is therefore remarked with surprize that he now appears to maintain the closest and most friendly relations with him.

How far these complaints and grievances will enter into the statement which is now to be prepared by the representatives of the people for presentation to the Governor-General I am unable to say, but I hear that there is a strong opinion in favour of not entering into details, but simply to refer to the promise of administrative autonomy lately communicated by his Excellency Safvet Pasha, to state that during the last three years, in spite of repeated promises, no reform or amelioration in the administration of the province has been effected, and that matters in the meantime have been going from bad to worse, and to request that the contemplated changes be introduced without further delay.

One of the most influential and intelligent representatives of the Mussulman population lately consulted me as to the advisability of addressing a petition to the European Congress. I, however, dissuaded him from this step. I told him it would only cause further complications, and raise hopes which perhaps could not be realized, but I assured him at the same time that if Congress met, the future of this province

would undoubtedly be taken fully into consideration, and the rights of all sects and classes of the population duly respected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 481.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 40. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, June 12, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34, Political, of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, in contradiction to the information I have received from Mostar, his Excellency Mazhar Pasha states that instructions have been received from the Porte not to permit the settlement of the armed refugees in the district of Novesinje. It appears that if necessary force will be resorted to to drive them out, and five battalions of infantry are in consequence being sent from Bosnia to reinforce the troops in the Herzegovina.

On the other hand it is rumoured that in consequence of the opposition made by Austria to the cession of the port of Antivari to Montenegro, and of the concentration of Austrian troops at Cattaro, all available forces are being collected in the south-west of the Principality, and that these settlers at Novesinje have, therefore, been already withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 482.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 83.)
Belgrade, June 14, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the Official Gazette of this place, on the $\frac{26\text{th May}}{7\text{th June}}$, I was struck by the publication of a petition, dated from Belgrade, of the 13th May, purporting to express the wish of 300 Old Servians now resident in the capital to be annexed to this country; and I requested a translation to be made, which I now inclose, and made inquiries as to the genuineness of the signatures. I have underlined in the list of names those who, being personally known to my informant, a British subject resident here, he has spoken to on the subject.

Each one has declared that he never was even consulted or asked to sign any petition, and the whole thing was got up without their knowledge.

Indeed, the last three underlined have been dead some time, while among the others, two are of Greek origin and one a Wallachian, with no Servian sympathies whatever.

"Ab uno disce omnes," but this miserable kind of deceit cannot much advance the cause Ministers so ardently espouse, and your Lordship can gather what reliance may be placed in similar documents which M. Ristich brings with him in support of his cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 483.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 770.)
Therapia, June 15, 1878.

My Lord,

TWO ecclesiastics, representing the Greek Patriarchate, called upon me this morning and placed in my hands the inclosed document relating to the property in Roumania belonging to the Greek Church which has been confiscated by the Roumanian Government. They requested me, on the part of the Patriarch, to forward

it to your Lordship, and to ask your Lordship to give your support to the claims of the Greek Church at the Congress. They informed me that they had presented a similar protest to my Austrian and Russian colleagues and to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, who had promised to send it to their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 483.

Mémoire des Saints-Lieux annexé à la Lettre adressée à Son Altesse Safvet Pacha, Grand Visir et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Le $\frac{30\text{ Mai}}{11\text{ Juin}}$ 1878.

1. A PARTIR du 16ème siècle jusqu'à ces derniers temps les Saints-Lieux d'Orient, c'est-à-dire les quatre Siéges Patriarcaux de Constantinople, d'Alexandrie, d'Antioche, et de Jérusalem, ainsi que les communautés religieuses du Mont Sinaï, du Mont Athos, et de diverses provinces de Roumélie ont acquis un nombre considérable de monastères et de biens-fonds, situés en Roumanie, et qui sont généralement désignés sous la dénomination de "biens dédiés."

2. Ces monastères et ces biens essentiellement distincts des couvents indigènes et des biens qui appartiennent à l'Eglise intérieure de la Roumanie et dont l'administration revient aux moines Grecs, sujets de la Sublime Porte, constituent par conséquent des propriétés étrangères; supportant d'ailleurs les charges et les impôts comme les autres propriétés privées de la Roumanie.

3. Au point de vue de leur origine, constatée par des titres écrits authentiques et confirmés par les plus hautes autorités judiciaires et administratives de la Roumanie, ces monastères peuvent se diviser en trois classes:—(1.) Monastères donnés aux Saints-Lieux par leurs propres fondateurs; (2.) Monastères fondés par des Princes ou par d'autres personnes considérables du pays, donnés aux Saints-Lieux postérieurement à leur fondation par les descendants ou par les héritiers des fondateurs dont ils étaient demeurés la propriété; (3.) Monastères fondés par des Princes ou par d'autres personnages donnés aux Saints-Lieux, postérieurement à leur fondation, par les Princes Régnants, conjointement avec les Assemblées du pays, dans des formes solennelles.

4. Les biens de ces Monastères se sont accrus avec le temps d'offrandes faites par diverses personnes pieuses. En outre les Saints-Lieux ont acquis à différentes époques dans les Principautés, à titre onéreux ou gratuit, des biens ne se rattachant à aucun des monastères en question et formant actuellement une grande partie des propriétés des Saints-Lieux en Roumanie.

5. La paisible possession de ces monastères et de ces biens par les Saints-Lieux a été entourée pendant des siècles de toutes les garanties désirables. Ce n'est qu'en 1828 qu'une contestation a été élevée par les Gouvernements Princiers qui se prolongea sans pouvoir être résolue. La contestation ne portait nullement sur le droit de propriété des Saints-Lieux; seulement les Gouvernements de Moldavie et de Valachie insistaient à obtenir le quatrième des revenus des biens ecclésiastiques Grecs. L'Eglise Grecque, quelqu'animée qu'elle fût du désir de faire spontanément tous les sacrifices possibles, en faveur des œuvres de bienfaisance et de charité dans le pays, ne pouvait pas céder à des exigences incompatibles avec le droit, qu'elle tenait de ses titres, de disposer elle-même des revenus de ses biens. C'était dans ces termes que le conflit s'agitait encore lorsque la Conférence de Paris s'en saisit en 1858.

6. Le Protocole de la treizième séance (30 Juillet, 1858) des Conférences tenues à Paris porte:—

"M. le Plénipotentiaire de la Russie appelle l'attention de la Conférence sur le conflit existant dans les Principautés, touchant les biens des couvents dédiés; après examen, la Conférence décide que, pour donner une solution équitable au différend qui existe à ce sujet entre les Gouvernements des Principautés et le clergé Grec, les parties intéressées seront invitées à s'entendre entre elles au moyen d'un compromis. Dans le cas où elles ne parviendraient pas à s'entendre dans le délai d'un an, il sera statué par voie d'arbitrage. Dans le cas où les arbitres ne parviendraient pas à s'entendre, ils choisiront un surarbitre; s'ils se trouvaient également dans l'impossibilité de s'entendre pour le choix de ce sur-arbitre, la Sublime Porte se concerterait avec les Puissances garantes pour le désigner."

D'après la teneur de ce Protocole les deux parties devaient d'abord chercher à s'entendre entre elles dans un délai fixé et, à défaut d'entente, il devait être statué par

voie d'arbitrage. Cette décision a été corroborée par le Protocole du 6 Septembre, 1859, et par celui de Décembre 1861.

7. Le Gouvernement des Principautés, qui avait alors à sa tête le Prince Couza, accepta d'abord ces Protocoles. Il chercha ensuite à les éluder en pratique, en empiétant sur les droits des Saints-Lieux et en cherchant tout d'abord à s'emparer de leurs revenus. La conséquence forcée des Protocoles et des principes les plus nécessaires du droit était que, pendant la durée du litige et jusque à la prononciation de la sentence arbitrale, les deux parties demeurassent absolument dans leur situation respective. C'est ce que les Grandes Puissances déclarèrent dans une note collective que leurs Représentants à Constantinople ont adressée à la Sublime Porte, à la date du 4 Juillet, 1860; note dans laquelle il est formellement établi, que les propriétés conventuelles doivent rester dans la position où elles se trouvaient lors du Protocole 13 (1858) jusque à ce que les conditions présentes en soient dûment remplies.

8. Le Gouvernement du Prince Couza s'est tenu dans ces limites jusqu'au mois de Novembre 1862. Mais à cette date, substituant tout d'un coup l'abus de la force au respect du droit et de son propre devoir, il mit sous séquestre et bientôt s'appropria les revenus de l'Eglise Grecque, et, sans se laisser arrêter par les protestations répétées de la Sublime Porte et les injonctions des Grandes Puissances, il finit par déposséder complètement l'Eglise, après s'être permis toutes sortes de violences contre les personnes des ecclésiastiques Grecs, et leur avoir fait arracher des mains plus de 24,000 titres et documents de propriété.

9. Les violences et l'hardiesse avec laquelle l'administration de ce Prince déloyal mettait au défi les décisions des Puissances provoquèrent en 1864 la réunion d'une Conférence à Constantinople. Cette Conférence, après avoir déclaré dans son Protocole No. 1 (séance du 9 Mai, 1864) "(1) que les prévisions du Protocole du 30 Juillet, 1858, ne s'étaient pas réalisées; (2) que le Gouvernement Moldo-Valaque s'était rendu coupable d'actes et de mesures arbitraires; (3) que la Conférence devait regarder comme non avenues ces mesures, dont le caractère arbitraire ne saurait avoir aucune valeur à ses yeux, et blâmer la manière dont il avait cru pouvoir dépasser sa compétence, dans des questions qui ne lui appartiennent pas de résoudre;" instituait une Commission chargée de recueillir toutes les lumières qui pouvaient faciliter à la Conférence l'accomplissement de son mandat, réservant à elle-même le droit de se prononcer sur la solution définitive (Protocole No. 2), et enjoignait au Gouvernement du Prince Couza d'avoir à s'abstenir d'aucun acte d'aliénation des propriétés des Saints-Lieux, et de ne pas disposer de leurs revenus, qui devraient être versés, en attendant, d'une manière qui en assure la conservation, dans une caisse spéciale sous la surveillance des Puissances (Protocole No. 3).

10. Pendant que la Commission instituée par la Conférence se mettait en mesure d'entreprendre le travail dont elle avait été chargée, l'Administration du Prince Couza annonçait aux Puissances qu'au moyen de mesures spéciales elle avait pourvu à la garantie qui lui avait été demandée quant aux revenus. En même temps on faisait aux Saints-Lieux des propositions d'indemnité; mais les Saints-Lieux n'hésitèrent pas un instant de repousser de pareilles offres, persistant à invoquer leur droit de propriété et les dispositions explicites du Protocole de 1858. Plus tard il fut reconnu que ces mesures spéciales, que l'administration du Prince Couza avait annoncées comme devant garantir aux Saints-Lieux les revenus de leurs biens (affaire de 150,000,000), ne constituait qu'une manœuvre frauduleuse contre le trésor public des Principautés; et en attendant le Prince Couza ayant été obligé à abdiquer (le $\frac{11}{23}$ Février, 1866) la Conférence de Constantinople se sépara, s'en remettant pour l'accomplissement de l'œuvre de la justice demeurée inachevée aux espérances qu'avait fait naître l'avénement de Son Altesse le Prince Charles.

11. Depuis lors Son Altesse a fait parvenir aux principaux représentants de l'Eglise Orthodoxe des espérances très-précieuses sur son désir sincère d'en arriver à une entente sur le litige en question. Malheureusement les faits ont suivi une marche tout-à-fait opposée. Les revenus ont continué à être versés dans les caisses pour subvenir aux dépenses de l'Etat Roumain. On a même procédé à des aliénations, contre lesquelles l'Eglise d'Orient s'est vue dans la nécessité d'opposer des protestations formelles en 1868, 1871, et 1877, protestations que la Sublime Porte a dûment transmises aux Grandes Puissances.

12. C'est ainsi que des actes de violence et d'arbitraire manifestes de la part de l'Administration Roumaine ont privé l'Eglise d'Orient de l'unique épargne qu'elle avait pu se constituer pendant des siècles, grâce à la piété de ses enfants et à ses propres efforts. La Sublime Porte connaît mieux que tout autre les extrémités auxquelles cette conduite du Gouvernement Princier a réduit les Saints-Lieux d'Orient, et même

au milieu des graves préoccupations des dernières négociations, elle saisit la première occasion qui s'est offerte à elle pour signaler la nécessité d'en arriver enfin à une solution de nature à satisfaire à des revendications légitimes.

13. Si, après tout ce qui s'est passé, on ne peut plus malheureusement fonder quelques espérances sur la possibilité d'une entente directe entre les parties intéressées, la voie de l'arbitrage prescrite par le Protocole 13 de 1858 demeure toujours ouverte, et si les Grandes Puissances, complétant l'œuvre de 1858, voulaient bien prescrire un délai fixe pour la mise en pratique de l'arbitrage et convenir de la désignation du surarbitre, pour laquelle les Saints-Lieux s'en remettent entièrement à leur décision, il serait donné d'espérer de voir bientôt se terminer un conflit si regrettable à tous les points de vue.

14. La cause des Saints-Lieux, qui se lie d'une manière intime à celle du principe religieux lui-même et de son avenir en Orient, repose sur les règles de la justice et du droit des gens, et elle s'est trouvée placée dès son origine sous la garantie des décisions des Grandes Puissances. Appelées par la divine providence à asseoir sur des bases solides le repos et la tranquillité en Orient, elles ne permettront certainement pas qu'une cause juste et sainte succombe sous le poids d'une violence inspirée évidemment par de mauvaises passions.

No. 484.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 780.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an autograph letter addressed by the Sultan to the Grand Vizier. This proceeding on the part of the Sovereign of this Empire is, I believe, unprecedented. I have no doubt that the letter was written by the Sultan himself, and that it expresses his real sentiments. His Majesty has constantly manifested his desire to me that the credit of Turkey should be restored, that its great agricultural resources should be developed, and that public education should be promoted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Newspaper Extract.

HIER, nous avons parlé du message que Sa Majesté le Sultan a bien voulu adresser à Son Altesse le Grand-Vézir, Safvet Pacha.

Ce message est une lettre autographe de Sa Majesté. En voici la traduction:—

"Mon illustre Vézir Safvet Pacha.

"Dans les divers postes auxquels vous avez été appelé sous les règnes de mon illustre père, de mon oncle vénéré et de mon frère, vous avez rempli votre devoir avec une loyauté qui vous a acquis leur bienveillante confiance.

"De même depuis mon avénement au Trône, vous m'avez témoigné une fidélité et un attachement qui n'ont fait que raffermir ma confiance en vous.

"La prospérité et le salut de notre pays sont, vous le savez, l'objet de mes vœux les plus chers, objet qui ne saurait être obtenu que par le rétablissement de notre crédit, principe de l'existence d'un Etat, par le progrès de l'agriculture qui forme la richesse naturelle de notre pays, et par le développement et la propagation dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire de l'instruction publique.

"Je compte sur vos efforts intelligents et éclairés pour la réalisation de ces trois points, selon mon désir Impérial.

"Extrêmement satisfait des services que vous ne cessez de rendre, avec la plus grande fidélité et le plus grand dévouement, en un mot de tous vos actes et faits, je vous envoie la présente lettre autographe comme un souvenir tout particulier et un nouveau témoignage de mes sentiments de confiance et de bienveillance parfaite envers vous."

No. 485.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 15, 1878.*

THREE more Russian officers have arrived here on a special mission.

They are sent by General Todleben, with the view of settling the lines of demarcation between Servia and Bulgaria, as they should have been at the signature of the armistice, but which were neglected at the time.

General Todleben complains that the Servians have encroached so much upon Bulgarian territory that they now are within two hours' distance of Sofia.

These officers have been invited by the Prince to accompany him to Nisch on the 17th, and they will join His Highness there on the 20th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 486.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, June 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 48, Political, of the 4th instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to inclose two plans with notes showing the position of the new fortifications in the neighbourhood of Toultcha and Sulina, and I trust shortly to be able to forward a somewhat similar plan of Ismail.

There were on the 2nd June no signs of any repairs being made to the old batteries at Isaakcha.

With the exception of the departure of about 500 men of the Engineer Corps, who marched towards Reni on the 6th instant, there have been no movements of troops of any consequence.

A considerable quantity of ammunition for heavy guns, as well as small arm, has arrived both by water and by train from the direction of Bucharest, also some heavy guns and a few mortars; there now about thirty of these pieces parked at Galatz.

On the 8th instant I learned that five iron vessels had arrived at Reni by train from Bender, and a French engineer was being employed to put them together.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 487.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 784. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1878.*

M. D'ADELBERG, the Austrian Consul at Philippopolis, who is just arrived from that town, was good enough to call upon me and to give me an account of the state of affairs there and in the neighbourhood. He so entirely confirmed in all their details the reports sent to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, and forwarded to your Lordship, that I need scarcely repeat what he stated to me. He described the cruel treatment inflicted by the Russians and Bulgarians on the unfortunate Mahomedans, upon the Jews, and upon all those who are not of the Bulgarian race and faith; the massacres and assassination, the violation of women and female children, the destruction of Turkish property, the persecution of the Greeks and Catholics, &c. He gave me an account of an incident of which I had heard, but which Mr. Calvert had not, modestly, fully reported to me, and in which he appears to have behaved exceedingly well. It appears that on one occasion he observed, before his colleagues, to General Staliben, that Russian officers were in the habit of employing the Bulgarian police to carry off and bring to them Mussulman women. On the following day a Russian Colonel called upon him and threatened him with the vengeance of the Russian officers of the garrison unless he retracted this accusation. Mr. Calvert replied that he preferred to prove it. He was able a day or two after to take General Staliben to

a Bulgarian house in which a poor Mahomedan girl of tender age was kept by force by a Russian officer, and had been threatened with death if she attempted to escape. Mr. Calvert produced her father and mother, by whom she was was claimed. General Staliben thereupon ordered further inquiries to be made, and several Mahomedan girls were found in the same condition. He has since taken measures to prevent these shameful proceedings, and M. d'Adelberg stated to me that he believed that they had been put a stop to in the town itself, but that he could not answer for what was taking place in the surrounding villages. He observed that the Russians had committed more devastation and outrages in Philippopolis during twenty-four hours than 40,000 Bashi-Bazouks had ever perpetrated. As M. d'Adelberg was Russian as well as Austrian Consul his evidence on these subjects can scarcely be called in question. He told me that he had spoken to the Russian authorities without disguise of the cruelties and ravages committed by the Russian troops and the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 488.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 785. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1878.*

I HAVE received the inclosed Memorandum, regarding the condition of the Russian army now before Constantinople, from a Polish gentleman. The information obtained by the Polish refugees residing in this city on this subject is very often good, although it must be received with caution, as it is their object to make the worst of the state of the Russian forces. However, the statement contained in the inclosed, as to the illness prevailing in the Russian camp, and other matters, are to a certain extent corroborated by accounts which reach me from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 488.

Mémorandum.

I.—*Dispositions de l'Esprit.*

(*a.*) *Particulières.*—Au début de la campagne, c'est-à-dire au moment où les régiments s'ébranlaient de leurs garnisons respectives, les Polonais, qui font partie de l'armée, étaient encouragés par leurs proches de quitter le service abhorré, et de passer aux Turcs; c'étaient dans ce sens aussi qu'ils se concertaient ensuite entr'eux pour mettre leur dessein à l'exécution, malgré qu'ils étaient l'objet d'une surveillance toute spéciale, et ils auraient accompli leur projet si malheureusement les Bachi-Bozouks n'aient pas massacré plusieurs d'entr'eux, précisément au moment où ils s'efforçaient de passer au camp Turc.

Cette disposition, cependant, au lieu de fléchir, a beaucoup grandi, et en cas d'une nouvelle campagne on pourrait désorganiser presque totalement l'armée Moscovite, si l'on voulait adopter des mesures convenables.

Quant aux Moscovites proprement dits, eux aussi n'étaient nullement bien disposés d'aller à la boucherie, et les soldats exprimaient tout haut leur mécontentement d'avoir à combattre pour une cause qui n'était pas la leur.

(*b.*) *Générales.*—Tous, sauf rares exceptions, redoutent énormément la guerre contre l'Angleterre, et ne désirent que de rentrer chez eux.

Dernièrement on a essayé de faire une souscription pour l'achat et l'armement des bateaux corsaires. On se proposait d'imposer là-dessus un simple soldat d'une modique somme de 20 copecks (80 c.), un sous-officier de 50 copecks, et ainsi de suite progressivement d'après le grade; mais tous les soldats, les sous-officiers de grades inférieurs, se sont nettement refusés à y participer, et un clameur général parcourait le camp, que, "S'il veut faire la guerre il doit avoir l'argent à lui, et non pas nous en demander."

II.—*Forces Concentrées aux Environs de Constantinople.*

1. Corps de la Garde Impériale, composé de 3 divisions d'infanterie, chacune de 4 régiments à 4 bataillons, dont 3 de ligne et le quatrième de chasseurs—en tout 48 bataillons.

2. Corps des grenadiers, composé de 2 divisions, soit 32 bataillons.

3. Corps de Scobolev (ce général est absent pour le moment), 2 divisions (30 et 31), en tout 32 bataillons.

4. 5me Corps, 32 bataillons.

5. 8me Corps, en réserve, 32 bataillons.

La profondeur des cantonnements s'étend de San Stéfano au delà de Buyuk-Tchekmedjé.

En tout, 176 bataillons (les bataillons sont réduits de 500 à 700 baïonnettes, et en moyenne il faut les compter chacun à 600 hommes), par conséquent—

		Hommes.
Total d'infanterie		105,600
Trois divisions de cavalerie, soit 12 régiments à 800 hommes		9,600
Artillerie des divisions—	Hommes.	
384 bouches à feu	5,376	
Artillerie à cheval—		
72 bouches à feu	1,400	
Parc de réserve—		
126 bouches à feu	1,617	
Deux parcs de siége—		
240 bouches à feu	1,700	
822		10,293

N.B.—Le nombre des bataillons de sapeurs, de pontonniers, &c., n'a pu être encore exactement vérifié, ni la force des régiments de Cosaques non plus. Nous mettons de chiffres approximatifs—

Pour le génie	3,000
„ les Cosaques	6,000
Total	124,493

III.—*Etat Sanitaire et Considérations sur ses conséquences.*

Susceptible aux changements quotidiens, il peut cependant être apprécié *ad minimum*, en prenant pour la base la Garde Impériale, troupe la plus favorisée sous tous les rapports. Or, il n'y a que quatre jours la 3me division, composée des régiments :—

1. Leib-Garde de Lithuanie ;
2. Leib-Garde de Volhynie ;
3. Leib-Garde de l'Empereur d'Autriche ;
4. Leib-Garde de l'Empereur d'Allemagne,

avait plus que 1,400 malades et 4,000 convalescents, qui ne pouvaient être employés au service, en tout, 5,400 hommes hors des rangs. Ainsi, en adoptant le même chiffre pour les autres divisions moins favorisées, nous aurons sur 11 divisions d'infanterie 59,400 à retrancher de l'effectif ci-dessus arrêté, de sorte qu'il n'en reste pour les opérations immédiates que 46,200. Quant à la cavalerie, comme il y a dans chaque régiment plus que 200 hommes démontés, qui ne peuvent pas prendre part aux combats, nous les considérons d'être malades, et, par conséquent, 12 régiments à 600 chevaux, 7,200. En mettant seulement 5 pour cent de malades pour l'artillerie et le génie, soit 665 hommes, reste 9,028 ; et en admettant que les Cosaques sont tous bien portants, 6,000.

Nombre total qui peut se présenter sur le champ de bataille, 69,028. Et en admettant que l'état de santé peut s'améliorer dans quelques jours (hypothèse bien douteuse) on pourrait peut-être élever cette quantité à un chiffre rond de 80,000 hommes. Mais si les Cosaques sont d'une utilité incontestable pour le service de camp, ils ne peuvent pas prendre part à une bataille rangée, et effectuer des charges contre une cavalerie bien montée. Les chevaux, tant de la cavalerie de ligne que ceux d'artillerie sont épuisés, et les remontes n'arrivent qu'en quantité très-restreinte, de sorte que quelques marches fortes, ou bien les manœuvres d'une bataille prolongée, en mettraient au moins un quart hors de service, ce qui diminuerait évidemment le nombre de combattants et paralyserait en grande partie l'artillerie de campagne. Il y a peu de jours qu'on a démonté une brigade de cavalerie toute

entière, et on a renvoyé ses soldats en Russie ; quant aux chevaux, ils ont été répartis entre les régiments qui restent ici, pour pouvoir augmenter leur effectif, réduit à l'impuissance d'entreprendre une action énergique. Les médecins redoutent beaucoup l'approche de grandes chaleurs, et ils prévoient, qu'outre le typhus qui ravage actuellement l'armée Moscovite, la dyssenterie et l'inflammation cérébrale viendront ajouter leurs effets funestes pour son affaiblissement ou même son anéantissement complet.

Procédés.—Le soldat Russe est soumis aux peines corporelles, supprimées par les lois écrites ; traité, même en rangs, brutalement, avec des coups de poing, il n'a ni confiance, ni attachement à ses supérieurs. Durant la campagne passée, les Musulmans aussi bien que les Bulgares ont été fort mal menés par les troupes Russes. Le pillage et la dévastation ont été à l'ordre du jour. Plusieurs prisonniers Turcs, soupçonnés d'être des Polonais, ont été torturés, knoutés, pour les forcer à avouer leur nationalité, et parler Polonais, et puisqu'ils n'en savaient un seul mot, au bout du compte ils étaient fusillés. Un bureau de renseignements militaires composé convenablement serait en état de pousser ces investigations aux détails les plus minutieux, et savoir journellement tous les mouvements des troupes Russes avec une exactitude mathématique, vu les éléments dissolvants de cette armée.

Le 15 Juin, 1878.

No. 389.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 379.)

My Lord, *Athens, June* 16, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 377, marked Confidential, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Photindes Bey, the Turkish Minister at this Court, told me to-day that M. Coumoundouros had sent further orders not to levy an export tax upon cattle belonging to refugees.

Photiades Bey appeared to me satisfied with the result of his last interview with M. Coumoundouros as to the refugees, who, he said, with the exception of those at Corfu, were returning to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 390.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 380.)

My Lord, *Athens, June* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of yesterday's date as to movements of troops, and as to a reported decision on the part of the Government to raise two more battalions of light infantry.

I have also the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish Minister, who called upon me this afternoon, told me that his Consular Agents reported an extraordinary movement of troops along the frontier lines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 390.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of June 15, 1878.

LE 5e et le 7e bataillons d'Evzones, en garnison à Athènes, ont reçu l'ordre de partir pour Chalcis. Quelques autres bataillons d'infanterie ont reçu l'ordre de se rapprocher de la frontière. Les troupes du camp de Chalcis ont été considérablement augmentées dans le courant de la dernière quinzaine. La formation de nouveaux bataillons d'Evzones a été décidée dans un des derniers Conseils des Ministres.

No. 491.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 23. Political.)
Ragusa, June 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a telegram I have this day received from the Prince of Montenegro, on the subject of fresh attacks made by Turks of Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 491.

The Prince of Montenegro to Consul St. John.

(Télégraphique.)

JE viens vous donner connaissance de la dépêche suivante que j'adresse en ce moment aux Consuls des Grandes Puissances présents à Scutari :—

Les faits viennent de donner malheureusement raison aux avertissements que je vous adressai à deux reprises, et de démentir les assurances que le Gouverneur-Général vous a données et qu'il répétait encore avant hier à mon chef d'état-major.

Les Turcs de Scutari ont attaqué nos postes et forcé nos lignes dans la Kraina. La station télégraphique de Vir Bazar annonce que le combat continue chaudement et que déjà cinquante des assaillants sont coupés du reste. Si ceux là succombaient, leur sang, comme celui de toutes les autres victimes, retombe sur les auteurs de ce guet-apens.

Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICOLAS.

No. 492.

The Postal Agent at Sulina to the Agent at Constantinople.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 30.)

Sulina, le 16 Juin, 1878.

M. le Commissaire,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que les batteries sont presque finies et les canons mis à leur poste.

La batterie située entre la digue du nord et les magasins à ciment de la Commission Européenne du Danube est armée de quatre canons de 10 tonneaux, de deux canons de 8½ tonneaux, et de quatre obusiers de 8 pouces de diamètre.

La batterie, élevée sur l'emplacement de l'ancienne batterie Turque à mi-chemin de l'hôpital, est armée de huit canons dont quatre de 8 tonneaux, et les quatre autres de 4½ tonneaux.

La troisième batterie placée entre la seconde batterie et l'hôpital sud-est est armée de quatre canons de 8 tonneaux ; enfin, la quatrième batterie élevée sur la baie à l'est de l'hôpital est armée de deux canons de 12 tonneaux et six de 8½ tonneaux.

Lorsque ces batteries seront définitivement finies, les soldats partiront pour l'embouchure de St. Georges (Kintrolia) pour travailler à la construction de deux nouvelles batteries.

Les bateaux de la Compagnie de Commerce Russe ne manquent pas de venir régulièrement une ou deux fois par semaine et débarquer des munitions de guerre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CARANDINO.

No. 493.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 786. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 17, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier informed me this morning that the Council of Ministers, after mature consideration, had decided upon rejecting the proposal submitted to the Porte

by M. Demetri Bratiano, on behalf of the Roumanian Government, to enter into a Convention with Roumania for the release of the Turkish prisoners still detained in that Principality. The object of this Convention, which was to be entered into by the Prince as a Sovereign, was, as I have already informed your Lordship, to obtain from the Porte an indirect recognition of the independence of Roumania. It was rejected by the Council on two principal grounds, first, that to accede to it would be an admission on the part of the Porte that the Treaty of Paris was no longer in force; and, secondly, that it would be a recognition of the Treaty of San Stefano, which has declared the independence of Roumania.

The French Ambassador has fully approved the decision of the Porte, and it was, I believe, partly owing to his advice that it was come to. Not having received instructions from your Lordship to give the Roumanian proposal any direct support, I limited myself to recommending Safvet Pasha to endeavour to conciliate the Roumanians as far as possible, and to establish a good understanding with them, notwithstanding the treacherous manner in which they had behaved to Turkey.

M. Bratiano leaves Constantinople at once, much disappointed, he informs me, that his mission should not have met with success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 494.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 787. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 17, 1878.

My Lord,

SAFVET PASHA informs me that the Council of Ministers decided yesterday upon not addressing to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador the note of which I transmitted a draft to your Lordship in my despatch No. 757 of the 11th instant, asking for the entry of Austro-Hungarian troops into Bosnia. His Highness remarked that the suggestion made by the Austro-Hungarian Government might have been acted upon had not the Congress met; but that the Porte now preferred that the question of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be dealt with at Berlin. There was no doubt, his Highness said, from information which had reached the Porte, that it was the intention of Austria-Hungary, under the pretext of sending troops into those provinces at the request of Turkey, for certain temporary purposes, to take permanent possession of them. The Turkish Ministers could not, his Highness observed, knowingly and after receiving due warning of the intentions of Austria-Hungary, hand over to her a large portion of the Sultan's territories in Europe. The responsibility before the Sultan, and the country, incurred in doing so, would be too great. If Turkey had to yield to force, then Europe and the Congress would be responsible. His Highness added, that it was evidently the intention of Austria-Hungary and some other Powers to bring about a partition of the Ottoman Empire, which he could only compare with that of Poland.

I have done my best, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, to persuade the Porte to accede to the suggestion of Count Andrassy, and have pointed out to successive Prime Ministers the importance of conciliating Austria, of having her for an ally, and of securing her support both at the Congress and in case of war. But I have perceived that there existed a deep-rooted suspicion of her real objects and designs from the very first, and that the Turkish Government has been most unwilling to sanction the entry of Austro-Hungarian troops into Bosnia, being persuaded that if they once entered that province they would never leave it again.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 495.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 788.)
Therapia, June 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, respecting the outrages committed by Circassians in a part of his district. I have directed Mr. Sandison to present to the Grand Vizier a memorandum containing the substance of the statements made by Vice-Consul Marato, and to impress upon his Highness in the strongest terms the importance of taking immediate measures for the protection of the lives and property of the peaceable inhabitants of the Pashalic of Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 495.

Consul T. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Smyrna, June 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the accompanying translation of a despatch I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Aivali, reporting a variety of brutal and murderous excesses committed by Circassians in that neighbourhood. One man, a Christian of Adramiti, after being robbed of his horse, was hanged by a band of these desperadoes in the middle of the public road.

Another man, a Greek, named Apostolo Pandeli, was also put to death on returning to Aivali from a large farm in the country. There is also the case of a priest who had his beard torn out by the roots, and was subjected to other kinds of torture.

The whole country for miles around Aivali appears to be infested by these Circassians, and robberies and outrage are the order of the day. Labourers are prevented by the fear of ill-treatment from going to their work; crops are neglected and much harm is consequently sustained by the farmers.

Aivali being under the jurisdiction of the Pasha of Broussa, I have the honour to request that the Vice-Consul's Report may be communicated to that functionary, and I venture to hope that some energetic measures may be taken for the investigation of the above-mentioned outrages and the exemplary punishment of the guilty parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. P. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 495.

Vice-Consul Marato to Consul T. Reade.

(Translation.)
Aivali, June 5, 1878.

Sir,

I INFORMED you in my letter of the 7th March last that the Ottoman Government had located in this and the adjacent districts a considerable number of Circassians.

The consequences which it was feared from such an immigration of this untameable race were not long in being revealed in various ways by the cruel treatment of the peasantry and peaceable inhabitants, more especially the Christians, seizing their animals required for agriculture, and making the victims who fall in their hands suffer unheard of and horrible tortures and murder.

Among the numerous cases that have occurred the most remarkable are the following perpetrated last week:—

Two Christians of Adramiti coming to this town were met on the way by a band of blood-thirsty Circassians, who, using their arms, arrested one, and, after taking his horse, killed him by hanging him in the public road.

A monk leaving this town for his olive plantation was met on the road by Circassians, who severely beat and tortured him, pulling off his beard.

Another inhabitant of this town, named Apostolo Pandeli, a married man, was killed by Circassians two hours from this, on the property named Beylik, belonging to

Mrs. S. Baltazzi, a British subject. The superintendent of this property came immediately to this place and requested this office to proceed and make the necessary representations to the local authorities of Aivali and Pergamos.

As soon as the Kaimakam of this town received information of what had occurred he immediately armed a body of between thirty and forty peasants, with orders to proceed against the malefactors and watch the places infested by them, and he at the same time reported the matter to his Government by telegraph.

As usual in the present season of the year, a large number of agriculturists are obliged to remain in the country, but owing to the actual state of affairs, they are obliged to abandon their corn, and if they risk continuing their work in the fields they cannot do so without exposing themselves to danger.

Free communication in this district is already interrupted. It is remarkable that up to the present moment we have not heard that the competent authorities of the district have punished a single murderer of this race as an example, although so many crimes have been daily committed by them; and the consequence of such neglect on the part of the superior authorities will be an increase of the intrepidity of the malefactors.

It is indispensably necessary that the Pasha of Broussa, under whose jurisdiction this district is, should receive pressing orders to persecute with energy the murderers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. P. MARATO.

No. 496.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 792.)
Therapia, June 17, 1878.

My Lord,

PRINCE LABANOFF called this morning at 6 o'clock upon Grand Vizier, to inform him that, unless immediate measures were taken by his Highness, a collision between the Russian and Turkish armies would take place in the course of the day, for which Turkey would be held responsible. According to the Prince's statement, a wooden scaffolding, or observatory, having been erected by the Russians within their own lines, Fuad Pasha, who commands the Turkish defences to the south of Constantinople, had sent to request that it might be immediately removed, threatening that, in case of refusal, he should consider it his duty to destroy it. General Todleben, having been apprised of Fuad Pasha's message, had looked upon it in the light of an ultimatum, and having determined to resist any attempt on the part of the Turkish Commander to interfere with the Russian positions, he was going to advance with a large force. Unless, therefore, immediate orders were given to Fuad Pasha to abstain from all interference with the Russian proceedings a conflict was imminent.

Safvet Pasha, whom I saw at 10 A.M., told me that, on receiving this communication from Prince Labanoff, he had at once directed Ghazi Osman Pasha to send the most explicit orders to Fuad Pasha to abstain from any further remonstrance with regard to the structure which the Russians had erected, and which his Highness described as a kind of look-out, or observatory, commanding the Turkish lines. I urged his Highness to do all in his power, at whatever sacrifice, to avoid a conflict which might lead to disastrous consequences. He repeated his orders to Ghazi Osman Pasha by telegraph in my presence.

I inclose copy of a letter which I received at 5 P.M. to-day from Baker Pasha, which gives a somewhat different version of this incident. I immediately wrote to him to urge him to use all his influence with Fuad Pasha, who has the reputation of being somewhat hot-headed, and to do the utmost in his power to prevent a collision between the two armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S., June 18th.—I have this morning received a letter from Baker Pasha, of which I inclose copy, acquainting me with the state of affairs at the Turkish lines.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 496.

Baker Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

My dear Sir Austen,

YESTERDAY there was a disagreement about some advanced post, caused by the Russians erecting an observatory only 200 yards from our cavalry piquet. I saw the Russian General Enis myself, and gave him a message from Fuad Pasha remonstrating. The Russian General declared that there was some misunderstanding, and that the Russian posts had not been advanced, although the observatory had been erected by General Todleben's orders. To-day the Russians have sent in, saying that they look upon Fuad's message as an ultimatum, and that they shall treat it as such after 5 o'clock this evening. All their troops are under arms, and the position is rather critical.

Ever, &c.
(Signed) V. BAKER.

Of course we shall act simply on the defensive, but must resist an advance. They are evidently seeking a cause of disagreement.

V. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 496.

Baker Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

My dear Sir Austen, *Camp, Constantinople, June 18, 1878.*

I SEND you a few lines this morning to say that all so far has passed off quietly, but of course preparations have to be made, which are always dangerous with two armies in such close proximity. The affair originated as follows. The Russians, as I told you, erected an observatory close to our cavalry piquet, looking into our camp. On seeing this, Fuad Pasha sent a message, saying that he must warn the General in command not to push nearer our posts, that doing so virtually amounted to an attack, and that if it continued he would have to take measures to support his positions, which must entail great responsibility upon the Russian General so acting. He requested that the observatory might be removed. The Russian General (name illegible, Ellis ?) expressed a wish to see Fuad, but I went to see him. He stated that although it was true that our cavalry posts had long been at this spot, his infantry posts had been there since the 7/19th May. That a few days ago General Todleben himself had ordered the construction of the observatory at that spot. I told him that there seemed to be some misunderstanding about the posts at this point, and that I would explain it to Fuad, and said that the best thing would be to let matters remain as they were whilst the question was referred to their respective Governments, he of course making a report of the circumstance to General Todleben. You will thus see that there was no warrant whatever for the subsequent action of General Todleben. He knows very well the danger of such action, and it looks like an attempt to provoke collisions. The erection of the observatory was a gross want of courtesy, to say the least of it.

You may always rely upon my doing my best to smooth away any such difficulties.

No more troops or guns have arrived, and I am sure my surmise as to the Thessaly troops is correct.

Ever, &c.
(Signed) V. BAKER.

I will keep you informed of all that passes.

V. B.

No. 497.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 17, 1878.*

AS I led your Lordship to expect, by my despatch No. 32 of the 13th instant, Prince Milan left Belgrade this morning for Semendria, on his way to Nisch, where he

will reside until the 6th July, when he will proceed to Krajugevatz for the purpose of opening the Skuptchina on the 7th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 498.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 793.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the report addressed to the Grand Vizier by Sami Pasha and Wassa Effendi, the two Commissioners sent by the Porte, at the request of the Russian Government, to endeavour to prevail upon the Pomaks, and other Mussulmans who have taken up arms in defence of their property and lives and the honour of their wives and daughters, to submit to the Russo-Bulgarian rule. The cruelties committed by the Bulgarians under the protection, and, it is feared, with the connivance of the Russians, upon the unfortunate Mussulman population, fully justify, in the opinion of the Commissioners and of others, the so-called insurrection in the Rhodope Mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 498.

Report of Wassa Effendi and Sami Effendi.

Altesse,

CONFORMEMENT aux ordres du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan, qui a bien voulu nous confier la mission d'apaiser l'insurrection du Mont Rhôdope, nous sommes partis d'ici le 2 Mai, et, arrivés le même soir à Andrinople, nous nous sommes empressés d'avoir une entrevue avec le Général Dellinsgausen, Commandant Supérieur d'Andrinople. Notre conversation roula, comme de raison, sur les insurgés. Le Général nous entretint d'une bande qui avait occupé la rive droite de l'Arda, et qui, de là, menaçait les villages des alentours. Il nous dit que dans le combat qui s'en était suivi, les Russes avaient eu quelques soldats tués et blessés, et qu'à la suite de ce fait il avait été obligé d'envoyer deux régiments pour occuper et défendre la Vallée de l'Arda. Le Général ajouta que pour le moment tout était tranquille, mais que, malgré ce calme apparent, il était nécessaires de prendre les mesures pour apaiser l'insurrection, et assurer par là l'ordre et la sécurité du pays.

Le lendemain, 3 Mai, nous partîmes pour Philippopoli. Arrivés vers le soir en cette ville nous y trouvâmes les trois officiers d'Etat-Major qui nous avaient précédés; ils nous mirent au courant de ce qui s'était passé aussi bien que de tous les bruits qui circulaient relativement à l'insurrection.

Le 4 Mai nous eûmes une entrevue avec le Général Stobissine, Commandant Supérieur des forces Russes, qui nous fit un gracieux accueil. D'après les dires du Général Stobissine, les combats qui avaient eu lieu entre les troupes Russes et les insurgés n'auraient pas eu un caractère aussi grave que la voix publique leur avaient attribué; des Russes il n'y aurait eu qu'un officier et quelques soldats tués et blessés.

Le Général Stobissine ayant chargé son Chef d'Etat-Major de nous donner officiellement des renseignements sur la marche et les progrès de l'insurrection, celui-ci s'empressa d'aller nous faire visite, et nous communiqua les rapports qu'on lui avait adressés sur ce sujet. D'après la teneur de ces rapports l'insurrection aurait éclaté simultanément dans la zone d'Haskioï et de Slanimako; celle de la première zone se serait étendue depuis Kerdjali jusqu'à Gabrovo, en comprenant les villages de Foundoukli, Karamanlar, Yéni-Mahallé, Mursaltar, Guérin, Kouchavalar, et Boyardji-kioï. L'insurrection de la zone de Stanimako aurait pour centre Tchitlak, avec des avant-postes à Bourrovo et Devleu; pour l'arrêter là, les Russes ont été

obligés d'envoyer des troupes à Stanimako, Delvinendéré, Pechtéra, Markova, Eliatcha, Mandera, Sarnitch Cassaba, Sitova, Lélkova, et Djourien.

Les Chefs du mouvement insurrectionnel de la zone de Stanimako-Tchitak seraient les nommés Ali et Kerim Pachas, résidant à Dévleu, et Hadji Emin et son fils, à Bourrova; Hussein Tchaouch, de Lofteha; Molla Mourad, de Foundoukli; et Chaban Aga, de Caramanlar, commanderaient les insurgés de la zone de Haskioï.

Les villages de Foundoukli, Caramanlar, Yeni-Mahallé, Mursallar, Guérin, Kouchavlar, et Boyadjikioï, ont été incendiés en partie par les Bulgares et en partie par les obus tirés par les troupes Russes lors du combat qu'elles ont livré aux insurgés. Selon une version Russe, une autre insurrection aurait éclaté du côté de Sofia, mais elle a été étouffée immédiatement et sans trop d'effusion de sang.

Voila, Altesse, les renseignements que les autorités Russes ont bien voulu nous donner sur l'état de l'insurrection. A la suite de cette entrevue nous sommes tombés d'accord avec le Général Stobissine sur les mesures que nous devrions prendre pour remplir notre mandat, et le 6 Mai nous avons envoyé du côté de Haskioï l'Adjutant-Major, Mustapha Bey, accompagné d'un officier Russe. Les instructions que nous avons données à Mustapha Bey lui enjoignaient: 1, de prendre des renseignements exacts sur les causes qui ont produit ce mouvement insurrectionnel; 2, de s'informer de la position des insurgés, de leurs moyens et de leurs forces; 3, de les exborter à la soumission en les engageant à envoyer deux délégués à Philippopoli pour s'entendre avec nous aussi bien qu'avec les autorités Russes sur la nature des garanties qu'ils réclameraient en revanche de leur soumission. Le même jour nous avons envoyé du côté de Stanimako les Adjudants-Majors, Ismaïl Bey et Zihni Effendi, accompagnés également d'un officier Russe délégué par le Général Commandant de Philippopoli; nous leur avons donné des instructions identiques à celles de Mustapha Bey. Sur ces entrefaits Zihni Effendi s'étant foulé le pied, Ismaïl Bey a dû faire toute seul ce service. L'Adjudant-Major Mustapha Bey a employé dix jours pour faire sa tournée. Il a passé par Hasskioï, Mendera, Beykioï, Akdji-Cayalar, Dogandjilar, Kuklemoglar, Tchiklar, Toylouk, et est arrivé à Kerdjali en compagnie de l'officier Russe. Là, ayant trouvé réunis plusieurs chefs des insurgés, Mustapha Bey les questionna sur les causes de leur mécontentement, et tous d'accord, déclarèrent, comme il résulte du rapport No. 1 annexé au présent, que l'insurrection n'a été occasionnée que par les violences et les actes de cruauté que les Bulgares se sont permis d'exercer sur les populations Musulmanes qui, en déposant les armes, s'étaient décidées à rentrer dans leurs villages. "Les Bulgares, dirent-ils, ont brûlé et détruit leurs maisons, ont enlevé leurs bestiaux, ont pillé leurs provisions et leurs meubles, ont tué les hommes et ont violé leurs femmes et leur filles, et vous-mêmes, vous devez avoir remarqué pendant votre voyage, le désert qu'on a fait autour de nous."

Après les avoir exhortés à la patience et à la soumission, Mustapha Bey les pria d'envoyer à Philippopoli deux délégués pour s'entendre avec les Commissaires Impériaux. Les insurgés répondirent qu'ils ne pouvaient prendre aucun engagement là-dessus, et ils invitèrent Mustapha Bey de se rendre à Kouchavlar pour s'aboucher avec Molla Mourad et d'autres Chefs qui s'y trouvaient réunis. Parti de là Mustapha Bey traversa les villages détruits de Penderdjik, Caracaya, Caradéirmen, Yeni-Bazar, Kukviran, Molla-Mussalar, et Caratarla, et il arriva à Couchavlar, où il rencontra Molla Mourad et ses compagnons. Dans l'entrevue qu'il eût avec eux, ils lui ont déclaré qu'ils n'étaient pas des rebelles, tant s'en faut, ils n'étaient que des paysans honnêtes et paisibles, mais que, vu les violences et les cruautés des Bulgares, ils s'étaient trouvés forcés de prendre les armes uniquement dans le but de se défendre. "Beaucoup d'entre-nous," dirent ils, "se sont rendu, soit à Haskioï, soit à Philippopoli, pour porter plainte contre les vexations des Bulgares, mais la plupart ont été tués en route, d'autres ont été emprisonnés, et d'autres ont été chassés ignominieusement. Nous n'avions, par conséquent, d'autre alternative que subir tous ces horreurs ou prendre les armes, et nous nous sommes arrêtés à cette dernière chance de salut. Maintenant, nous n'avons plus confiance ni dans les Bulgares, qui ont exercé tant de cruautés sur nous, ni dans les Russes, qui ont laissé faire, et qui, sur les instigations des Bulgares, nous ont attaqués injustement en brûlant nos villages et en nous tuant tant de monde. Aussi, plutôt que de mourir assassinés et déshonorés par les Bulgares, nous préférons mourir les armes à la main. Voilà la réponse finale que nous vous donnons; du reste," ont ils ajouté, "nous avons donné avis à nos supérieurs, et demain vous aurez une réponse plus catégorique."

Le lendemain arriva un messager du Chef, qui somma Mustapha Bey de le

suivre tout seul jusqu'à Inkaya; l'officier Russe fut renvoyé en arrière, malgré les remonstrances de Mustapha Bey, qui tenait à ne pas s'en séparer. Après avoir passé par les villages de Bachli-keuy, Chabiular, Mergadam, Sari-Caya, et Akbonzaklilar, Mustapha Bey arriva à Sucaya, où il fut reçu par un nommé Selim-Aga, qui parraissait être le Chef suprême. Celui-ci l'aborda en lui disant que la réponse définitive il l'avait déjà reçue de Molla Mourad, et que lui n'avait plus rien à y ajouter. "Nous nous défendrons sur nos montagnes, sans descendre dans la plaine, nous ne molesterons personne, mais nous ne permettrons non plus à personne de franchir nos avant-postes; car les violences des Bulgares non-seulement n'ont pas cessé, mais se répètent continuellement dans tous les villages, et se reproduisent constamment dans la ville même de Philippopoli; et avec une telle perspective sous nos yeux, nous ne pouvons nous fier à qui que ce soit, et nous nous défendrons jusquà la dernière extrémité." Apres cette conclusion, Mustapha fut sommé de quitter la montagne. On l'escorta jusqu'à Tahtali-keuy et de là, en traversant Stanimako, il revint à Philippopoli.

L'officier d'Etat-Major, Ismaïl Bey, envoyé dans la zone de Stanimako-Tchitak, s'est rendu, accompagné d'un officier Russe, à Stanimako d'abord, et de là à Ikovo, dernière limite des avant-postes Russes. De cet endroit il écrivit aux insurgés, réunis à Borrovo, pour leur demander une entrevue, devant leur faire des communications qui les concernaient.

Après la réception de cette lettre une dizaine de notables insurgés s'empressèrent de se rendre à une demi-heure des avant postes et là, s'étant rencontrés avec Ismaïl Bey, celui-ci les questionna sur les motifs qui les avaient poussés à se soulever, leur fit entrevoir les dangers auxquels ils s'exposaient en persistant dans cette attitude; il les engagea à déposer les armes, et il les pria de choisir deux délégués pour s'entendre sur la nature des garanties que les autorités Russes ne manqueraient pas de leur accorder dans l'intérêt général de l'ordre public. La réponse qu'ils firent à cette exhortation fut identique à celle des insurgés de la zone de Haskeuy: "Nous ne sommes pas des rebelles," dirent-ils, "ni au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan, ni à celui de la Russie; au contraire, nous voulons nous abriter sous l'aile de leur protection, mais les violences et les actes de barbarie que les Bulgares ont exercé sur nos coreligionnaires et sur beaucoup d'entre nous après la paix, nous ont forcés à prendre les armes pour défendre notre vie, nos biens, notre honneur et notre religion. Les Bulgares n'ont respecté ni nos existences, ni nos biens, ni l'honneur de nos femmes; leurs méfaits font frémir. Hadji Chakir-Aga, de Djernovo, s'était réfugié pendant la guerre à Yerkopri: la paix faite, et sur l'invitation des autorités Russes, il se décida à rentrer chez lui. On lui donna une escorte de dix Bulgares armés. Mais, aussitôt qu'il fut dans son village, ces mêmes Bulgares cernèrent sa maison, blessèrent deux de ses enfants, lui enlevèrent 25,000 piastres qu'il avait sur lui, et tous les bestiaux et les meubles de la maison, et poussèrent l'infamie jusqu'à dépouiller toutes nues et à violer sous les yeux de ce vieillard, sa femme, ses deux brus, et ses filles. Chakir-Aga porta plainte, mais tout fut inutile; les auteurs de ces méfaits se promènent librement dans les rues de Stanimako. En présence de tant de violences, dont le fait que nous citons n'est qu'un échantillon, il ne nous reste que la chance des armes. Nous sommes assez nombreux, nous avons assez de vivres et de munitions pour soutenir la lutte contre nos oppresseurs, et nous croyons qu'il ne doit pas y avoir de Gouvernement Européen capable de blâmer notre résolution.

Ismaïl Bey ne manqua pas d'interpeller le Chef de la Police de Stanimako sur ce fait, qu'il n'osa pas nier; mais il se justifia en disant qu'il avait fait emprisonner pendant cinq jours les auteurs de ces crimes!

Nous mêmes, étant à Philippopoli, nous avons vu ce Hadji Chakir-Aga, vieillard de soixante-dix ans; il nous fit le récit de cette scène terrible, et nous la rapportâmes au Général Stobissine, en le priant de lui faire rendre justice. Après avoir échoué du côté de Bourrova, Ismaïl Bey se rendit à Péchtéra, et de là à Fotan, où se trouvaient les avant-postes des insurgés de Dévlen. Ayant envoyé dire aux Chefs qu'il désirait les voir, le lendemain ceux-ci arrivèrent, accompagnés d'une cinquantaine d'hommes armés, et comme il resulte du rapport d'Ismaïl Bey, Annexe No. 2, ils tinrent le même langage et donnèrent les mêmes réponses que les autres: "Nous ne pouvons pas avoir confiance dans vos promesses," dirent-ils à Ismaïl Bey. "Il y a deux semaines trois hommes de ce même village, les nommés Ibrahim Aga, Ahmed Oglou Hassan, Hussein Oglou Mehmed et un garçon de douze ans, se rendaient à Yésikoro avec quatre chevaux chargés de planches qu'ils devaient remettre à un négociant Allemand et à un Autrichien, et à leur retour ils furent

pris par des Bulgares qui les dépouillèrent tous nus et les tuèrent avec une cruauté révoltante, à l'exception toutefois d'Ibrahim Aga, qui pût se sauver par un vrai miracle. Parmi les auteurs de cette iniquité il y a trois dont on connaît les noms, et ce sont: Nasso Petroff, Christoff Colla, et Todor Peutchoff, tous les trois du village de Yésikoro; ils jouissent d'une complète impunité."

"Les Musulmans de Pechtéra qui s'étaient réfugiés à Dévlen voulaient, après la paix, rentrer chez eux, mais pour s'assurer des dispositions des Bulgares, ils engagèrent le Bairakdar Hadji Ali à prendre l'initiative du retour. Celui-ci, avec sa femme, ses enfants et ses troupeaux ne tarda pas à se mettre en route; mais dès qu'il fût à une heure de Pechtéra il fut assailli par une bande de Bulgares qui tuèrent son fils aîné et enlevèrent son troupeau; lui-même ne dut son salut qu'à la promptitude avec laquelle il avait pu gagner le bois. Rentré, malgré cela, à Pechtéra, il porta plainte à l'autorité Bulgare du pays, qui fit arrêter les coupables; mais après quatre jours ils furent remis en liberté. Après ce malheureux essai, personne ne pensa plus à rentrer dans ses foyers ni à se fier aux sentiments Bulgares. Aussi rien ne pourra ébranler notre résolution, et vous n'avez qu'à retourner sur vos pas," dirent-ils à Ismaïl Bey en le congédiant.

En présence des raisons données, et de la ferme résolution montrée par les insurgés, nous dûmes nous convaincre que notre mission touchait à sa fin, et que toute démarche ultérieure de notre part ne pouvait ni changer ni modifier la situation actuelle des choses, d'autant plus qu'à la suite de tout ce que nous avions constaté *de visu*, nous avions acquis la conviction intime que les violences et les actes de cruauté exercés par les Bulgares n'étaient malheureusement que trop vrais.

En effet, les villages Musulmans du Sandjak de Philippopoli sont presque tous détruits. Dans le district de Caradja-Dagh il y a à peu-près une quarantaine qui ont été incendiés et ravagés. La même destruction à été infligée aux villages de Hasskeuy et de Bazardjik, et les Musulmans restés sans abri ont dû forcément émigrer. Une grande quantité a péri du froid, de misère, et d'inanition, sans compter ceux qui ont été massacrés par les Bulgares. Nous ajoutons ici une liste, No. 3, contenant les noms de ces villages; mais nous pouvons assurer votre Altesse que cette liste est bien incomplète, et reste trop au-dessous de la réalité. Cette rage de destruction a été poussée jusqu'aux dernières limites. Pour avoir une faible idée de ce qui s'est passé dans les villages, il suffit de savoir que dans la ville même de Philippopoli on a détruit une immense quantité de maisons appartenant aux Musulmans, et que, pendant notre séjour et sous nos yeux, l'on a continué à en détruire rien que pour chauffer les fours avec les bois que l'on en tirait. Nous avons été assurés que le 18 Mai la police locale avait vendu, pour une somme de 458 piastres, au boulanger Nicolas, du quartier de Pirindj-Aubar, le droit de détruire quatre de ces maisons, et que neuf autres maisons, sises dans le quartier de Beymesdjid, ont été également vendues au boulanger Kenale, du même quartier, qui les a fait abattre et a emporté le bois chez lui.

Nous avons cru de notre devoir de rapporter ces faits au Général Stobissine, Commandant Supérieur de Philippopoli, et nous l'avons prié de faire cesser ce vandalisme; mais il nous a répondu qu'il regrettait vivement tout cela, mais que cette destruction était une nécessité, le bois à brûler faisant défaut en ville, et les troupes ayant besoin de cuir leur pain et leur soupe.

Nous n'avons pu dresser une liste exacte des meurtres commis par les Bulgares, car cela demandait beaucoup de temps; mais l'Annexe No. 4 que nous nous permettons de joindre à ce Rapport, suffira pour prouver l'existence des excès auxquels on s'est laissé entraîner. Le nombre des femmes et des filles violées n'est ni moins grand ni moins déplorable; nous ajoutons à ce Rapport l'Annexe No. 5, qui prouve également que les actes de féroce brutalité dont les Musulmans se plaignent n'ont rien d'exagéré; ils paraissent, au contraire, perpétrés avec une cruauté bien raffinée.

Le prêtre Catholique d'un village tout près de Philippopoli a été dépouillé tout nu par une bande de Bulgares et a été forcé d'assister en cet état-là au viol commis sur des religieuses du même village.

Dans le quartier Marache à Philippopoli le prêtre Bulgare Elia retient de force chez lui la fille de Bachaï, ancien zaptié, et nous n'exagérons pas en affirmant que beaucoup d'autres Bulgares ont enlevé et retiennent également chez eux des filles Musulmans dont les parents ont été tués ou ont dû émigrer.

Les réfugiés Musulmans qui se trouvent à Philippopoli sont entassés pêle-mêle dans des écuries; 200 à peu près demeurent sous des tentes que l'on a dressés sur un endroit marécageux au bord de la rivière, et reçoivent pour toute nourriture une

demi oque de pain, les adultes, et 100 drammes, les enfants. La plupart de ces malheureux sont morts d'inanition et de typhus; ceux qui restent encore debout ne tarderont pas à s'éteindre, car c'est physiquement impossible de pouvoir vivre dans les conditions où ils se trouvent. En revanche de la misérable et insuffisante nourriture qu'on leur donne, la police Bulgare oblige et soumet à la corvée tous les Musulmans qui sont encore en état de travailler; escortés par des gendarmes ils parcourent en nombre les rues de la ville le balai et la pioche à la main, et y travaillent sans recevoir ni un salaire ni un supplément de nourriture; dernièrement on les a forcés de détruire les tombeaux de leurs propres ancêtres au grand cimetière de la ville, qui est en train d'être transformé en jardin public. Pendant notre séjour à Philippopoli des bandes de Bulgares parcouraient les places et les voies publics en arrachant et en déchirant violemment le fez à tous ceux qui portaient cette coiffure; on n'a fait aucune exception ni pour les Musulmans, ni pour les Grecs, ni pour les Israélites; et ce n'est qu'à la suite des plaintes que nous-mêmes nous avons portées que le troisième jour le Général Stolissine a pu réussir à faire cesser ces actes outrageants.

Les biens et les propriétés des Musulmans ont été sequestrés, les céréales, produit de leurs terres, ont été livrés en grande partie à la consommation des soldats; les meubles de leurs maisons, et les habillements de leurs femmes, ont été vendus aux enchères publiques malgré les réclamations de leurs propriétaires, et les preuves qu'ils ont produit pour faire reconnaître et constater leur droit. La police Bulgare n'en a tenu aucun compte, et ce n'est qu'à l'intervention directe, provoquée par nous, du Général Stobissine, que l'on doit quelques rares exceptions.

Pour faire un rapport détaillé et circonstancié de toutes les oppressions, de tous les dénis de justice, et de tous les outrages dont on a abreuvé les Musulmans, voire même les Grecs et les Israélites, il faudrait écrire des volumes entiers; et nous n'osons pas le faire pour ne pas abuser d'avantage du temps que votre Altesse doit consacrer au service de l'Etat. D'ailleurs, nous sommes convaincus que ce que nous avons consigné à ce rapport suffit, et au delà, pour donner une idée de ce qui se passe en Bulgarie, et pour prouver une fois de plus que la situation qui est faite à ce pays, loin d'assurer la paix et la tranquillité de la Turquie d'Europe, ne fait qu'augmenter les complications et perpétuer les désastres de la guerre civile.

Inclosure 2 in No. 498.

Liste des Villages Musulmans Incendiés et Détruits par les Bulgares.

District de Hasskeuy.

Tartar-keuy.
Babalar.
Borevadjikli.
Mussatli.
Guidirlar.
Foundoukli.
Karamaular.
Yeni-Mahallé.
Mursallar.
Guérine.
Kouchavlar.
Boyardji-keuy.
Penderdjik.
Caraçaya.
Cara Deirmen.
Yeni-Bazar.
Kukviran.
Molla Musallar.
Cara Tarla.
&c. &c.

District de Stanimaka.

Milkova.
Pimrouch.
Chirocalaka.
Boy-keuy.
Tourou-beyli.
Tchaoukgillar, &c.

District de Caradja Dagh.

Satioglar.
Keremolar.
Kodja-oglar.
Kirchehilar.
Yatahlar.
Sahfali.
Guidichli.
Reis-keuy.
Serviehli.
Otli-feha.
Ineh-bighdji.
Kordjouli.

Sari-Ibli.	Mahmoudlar.
Souïtchoh.	Baldjilar.
Moustchali.	Tchéltikdji.
Tekke-keuy.	Senilemichli.
Kodja-beyler.	Seymen.
Kalaïdjilar.	Abrachlar.
Behirli.	Sakali.
Karadja-at.	Omaroba.
Sari-demirdjé.	Turhmenler, &c.

Le nombre des villages Musulmans détruits de Koyoun-tépé, Bazardjik, Carlova, Eski-Zaghra, Philippopoli, &c., se chiffrent par centaines. On n'a qu'à en dresser la liste, et l'on s'étonnera de la rage qu'a présidé à la déstruction.

No. 499.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 794.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation from an article in the Turkish newspaper the "Vakit," which is considered the leading organ of Turkish and Mussulman opinion in Constantinople. I inclose the letter from me to which the editor refers. It was written, as your Lordship will perceive, in answer to one which he had addressed to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 499.

Extract from the "Vakit" of June 14, 1878.

(Traduction.)

CONSIDÉRATIONS SUPPLÉMENTAIRES.—Le "Vakit," après avoir cité la réponse de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur à une lettre que l'éditeur de ce journal lui avait adressé pour lui communiquer un article précédemment publié, par rapport à la correspondance officielle de son Excellence, la fait suivre, sous la rubrique ci-dessus, par l'article suivant:—Nous pensons qu'on n'a pas oublié l'attitude de l'Angleterre depuis la réunion de la Conférence jusqu'à la conclusion du Traité de San Stéfano, et nous rappelons en même temps à ceux qui, avec l'évolution du temps, ont cessé d'y attacher de l'importance, le langage violent que le patriotisme inspirait à la presse Ottomane contre la politique du Cabinet d'Angleterre. La nation Ottomane n'oubliera jamais, tant qu'elle existe, que parmi les nombreux écrits officiels qui ont éveillé l'Europe, et spécialement l'Angleterre, de la léthargie politique où elle se trouvait, ceux qui portent la signature de son Excellence Sir A. H. Layard priment tous les autres. Son Excellence a contribué puissamment à ce que l'Europe reconnût l'injustice des dernières transactions en Orient, et qu'elle fut unanime à vouloir les modifier, ainsi c'est un honneur pour nous de constater notre dette de reconnaissance envers des personnes telles que son Excellence Sir A. H. Layard, qui se sont distingués dans la noble tâche de lutter pour la justice. Diviser les populations de l'Europe Ottoman sous le prétexte de faire des réformes, et abattre l'édifice existant pour en bâtir un neuf, au lieu de mettre de l'ordre à ce qui existe, ce serait, aux yeux de tout homme bien pensant, disperser les membres d'une famille et démolir leur habitation pour cause de quelque désordre, au lieu d'y établir l'harmonie de la bonne direction.

Cette vérité est désormais admise et reconnue par le Gouvernement Anglais, et la preuve en est l'assurance positive donnée par son Excellence comme quoi les intérêts des Musulmans qui habitent l'Empire Ottoman seront sauvegardés. La cause de cette bienveillance envers les Musulmans est clairement mise en relief dans la réponse de son Excellence: ce sont les nobles qualités des Musulmans; cela étant ainsi, il n'est pas hors de propos de considérer sérieusement en quoi consistent ces hautes qualités. C'est le courage et le patriotisme qu'ils ont manifestés dans la défense de leurs droits, c'est leur patience et résignation au milieu des souffrances, c'est la modération et la discipline, grâce auxquelles ils ont continué à rester unis

avec leurs concitoyens non-Musulmans, et à ne pas prêter l'oreille aux intrigants qui sèment la sédition. Telles sont les qualités qui ont valu aux Musulmans la haute bienveillance en question, et ce sont ces mêmes qualités qui la leur conserveront. Dans l'article dont nous avions fait communication à son Excellence Sir A. H. Layard, il était question de l'erreur de ceux qui s'efforçaient de diviser les éléments Musulmans, et les préjudices moraux et matériels d'une telle solution. Ici, en concluant, nous répétons que la division en question équivaudrait à l'annihilation de l'Etat Ottoman, et si quelqu'une des races Ottomanes conçoit jamais une telle idée, elle ne fait que rechercher son propre suicide. Ce n'est pas un avertissement que nous donnons; nous ne faisons que rappeler une expérience historique.

Inclosure 2 in No. 499.

Extract from the "Turquie" of June 17, 1878.

UNE PREUVE DE LA JUSTICE ET DE LA SYMPATHIE DE L'ANGLETERRE.—L'Article suivant est publié par le journal Turc le "Vakit:"—

"On admet aujourd'hui généralement que le Traité de San Stéfano par le système de réformes qu'il préconise, loin de réformer complétement l'Orient, ne fait qu'y créer un chaos épouvantable.

"Tous les Ottomans sont reconnaissants de tout cœur pour l'équité et la sympathie avec lesquelles son Excellence Sir A. Layard a fait ressortir devant l'Europe cette évidence et a communiqué au Cabinet de Londres les protestations des nationalités Orientales.

"Dernièrement encore, en reproduisant dans nos colonnes les dépêches de son Excellence, insérées dans un récent "Blue Book," nous avions publié un article à l'effet de démontrer l'inanité des prétentions de ceux qui cherchent la séparation des éléments Ottomans et de rendre hommage aux efforts généreux et équitables que son Excellence, animée d'un sentiment d'humanité, consacre à la défense des intérêts de notre pays.

"Nous avons pensé que notre article, placé sous les yeux des hommes d'Etat Anglais, ne saurait que produire une bonne impression au point de vue des intérêts Ottomans, et nous avions pris la liberté de le communiquer par une lettre spéciale à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

"Son Excellence ayant daigné apprécier la communication que nous avions pris la liberté de lui faire a fait dans la réponse qu'elle nous a adressée quelques déclarations pleines de sympathie et de bienveillance à l'adresse de nos compatriotes.

"Nous insérons ci-après la lettre que nous avons adressée à son Excellence, ainsi que la réponse que nous avons eu l'honneur de recevoir.

"Voici la lettre adressée à son Excellence Sir A. Layard par Philippe Effendi, Directeur du 'Vakit:'—

"'Excellence,

"'J'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence le numéro du "Vakit" d'aujourd'hui, et de signaler à son attention un article écrit sous l'inspiration des idées si dignes d'un homme d'Etat qui sont émises dans les dépêches de votre Excellence en date du 1er et du 17 Avril dernier, insérées dans le récent "Blue Book," et dont la traduction en Turc se trouve également dans ce numéro.

"'En vous remerciant au nom de mes compatriotes de la sympathie et de la sollicitude presque paternelle que votre Excellence ne cesse de témoigner pour les intérêts de notre chère patrie, j'ai, &c.

(Signé) "'D. PHILIPPE, *Directeur du 'Vakit.'*

"'*Constantinople, Bureaux du 'Vakit,' le 6 Juin*, 1878.'"

"Voici la réponse de Sir A. Layard:—

"'Monsieur,

"'Je vous remercie de l'article que vous avez inséré dans le "Vakit," et dont vous avez eu l'obligéance de m'envoyer copie, je me suis empressé de le faire traduire et de le transmettre au Marquis de Salisbury.

"'Vous me rendez justice en m'attribuant de la sympathie et de la sollicitude pour les populations Musulmanes de la Turquie. J'ai pu apprécier leurs hautes

qualités et les vertues, et c'est mon ardent désir qu'elles soient traitées avec équité et non pas sacrifiées à l'ignorance et à des préjugés non-fondés. Je ne doute pas que leurs intérêts seront protégés au Congrès par le Gouvernement de la Reine, qui désire sincèrement le bonheur et la prospérité de cet Empire.

"'Agréez, &c.

(Signé) "'Aus. Layard.

"'*Ambassade Britannique, le 8 Juin*, 1878.'"

"Le 'Vakit' fait suivre ces lettres d'un long article dans lequel il fait ressortir l'évolution qui a eu lieu dans la politique Anglaise depuis le commencement de la guerre.

"Des centaines de documents officiels, dont un grand nombre signés par son Excellence Sir A. Layard, ont éclairé l'opinion publique Européenne sur l'essence des choses en Orient. Tant que la nation Ottomane existera, elle n'oubliera point les efforts de son Excellence dans l'intérêt de la justice et de l'humanité.

"Sir A. Layard a défendu l'unité Ottomane et l'existence de la Turquie. Quiconque au dehors préconise la séparation des éléments qui composent l'Empire Ottoman ne fait que travailler à la destruction de cet Empire, et un élément Ottoman qui chercherait à se séparer préparerait sa propre ruine.

"Le 'Vakit' rend aussi hommage aux sentiments équitables de Sir A. Layard pour avoir apprécié les hautes qualités des Musulmans. En effet, dit le 'Vakit,' les Musulmans ont montré ces qualités au monde entier, par leur bravoure pendant la guerre, et par le dévouement et l'abnégation dont ils ont fait preuve pour la défense de leur pays."

No. 500.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 796.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Reade and Mr. Vice-Consul Stokes, respecting Russian military preparations in Bulgaria and the Dobrudja.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 500.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, June 15, 1878.*

I HASTEN to transmit to your Excellency copy of a despatch which this morning reached me from Vice-Consul Sankey, of Kustendji, in case you have not already received it. Peremptory orders have been received from Constantinople for the immediate repair of the whole railway line from this to Rustchuk, and workmen are at all the injured points already hard at work, and it is expected that before the end of the present month trains will run from this to Rustchuk. These orders were sent in consequence of an arrangement between General Todleben and the railway Director-General.

Some persons just arrived from Bazardjik, state that a large reinforcement of Russian troops has just arrived there; they give the number of 30,000, but from the different conflicting statements I have already heard on the subject, I am inclined to believe that it is grossly exaggerated. A few troops were expected to replace the sick there, and I believe the arrival of these has given rise to the above exaggeration.

Any troops intended for Kustendji would not be brought down to Bazardjik, but any for the coast between Mangalia and Baltchik would; and as Colonel Sankey reports that the General commanding in Bulgaria has proceeded on a tour of inspection as far down as Kuliakra, if I do not in a day or two receive certain information as to the alleged arrival of troops at Bazardjik, I will send a confidential messenger there again and to Baltchik to ascertain the real truth.

A person recently arrived from Rustchuk tells me that the Russian officers there have been heard to state with regard to the movements there and elsewhere, that as England persists in her war preparations, it is not extraordinary or unreasonable that

Russia should do the same, but that, notwithstanding, they still hoped soon to return to Russia, and that the railway is being repaired, as it will always be required, even in time of peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 500.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Kustendji, May 29, 1878.*

DURING the last few days the Russians have been very busy here. The Ordnance Department making a military map of the country, and Engineer officers planning batteries. The General commanding the army in Bulgaria is here inspecting, and is now going down with the staff along the shore in the direction of Kuliakra. A ship of war is stationed here, and her boats are out daily taking soundings. To-day 1,000 sappers arrived and a reinforcement of troops. I am told that heavy guns are on their way for mounting in the batteries already constructing.

The country is becoming very unhealthy, and malignant typhus, small-pox, and cattle plague have appeared in all the villages of the Dobrudja. Besides stopping the trade in cereals, the Russians have now forbidden the purchase and exportation of wool and hides. By the last French steamer a Turkish officer arrived here on his way to Silistria, and in the midst of a crowd on the jetty, the assistant police officer (Bulgarian) took away his sword, and this was not opposed or found fault with by the Russian officers.

A large batch of Russian civilians have arrived, and are being placed in all the civil employments. The Russians still consider themselves justified in taking possession of private houses forcibly, and establishing themselves and their officers in them. In answer to the claims of the proprietors, they say the houses are theirs (Russians).

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. F. SANKEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 500.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sulina, June 9, 1878.*

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that the Russians are still actively continuing the fortifications of the place, and their batteries are nearly completed. Munitions of war are constantly being brought from Odessa, including a large number of torpedoes and four more torpedo boats.

The number of troops here at present number 2,500 men.

I have, &c.

(Signed) O. STOKES.

P.S.—The heaviest guns placed here in the batteries are 10-ton Krupps.

O. S.

No. 501.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 798.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade respecting the behaviour of the Bulgarians towards the Mussulman population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 501.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, June 14, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith inclosed, translation of a petition recently received at Shumla from the Chiefs of some villages in the Balkans between Shumla and Aïdos, within the Turkish line of demarcation, and which adds another to the numerous proofs of how the Bulgars, backed by the Russians, are treating the Mussulmans.

I have also received reliable information that almost everywhere the Bulgars are actually taking forcible possession of Mussulman house and land property. Every house unoccupied has been seized, and whenever the owners have claimed them, they have been threatened and driven away often with much violence and injury. Property deeds are laughed at, and anything else whatever which the Mussulmans produce in support of their titles, and no Bulgar dares let his house to a Mussulman. As to having recourse to the Tribunals, the Musulmans have for some time had good cause to see that such a course is utterly in vain, and whenever the Russians have been applied to they have invariably referred the applicants to the Tribunals. All that is taking place in these matters tends to show most clearly that the decided object of the Russians is to drive away all Mussulmans from the country; but from their repeated declarations before Europe on the subject, they leave this entirely to the Bulgars, who perfectly well understand them, and as the rancorous antipathy of the latter towards all in the country beyond their own community has ever been a matter of general notoriety, your Excellency will imagine with what gusto they carry out the views of the Russians.

Whenever a Mussulman declines to be driven away, he is either mangled, or he suddenly disappears altogether. A very respectable old Mussulman, on this side, but near the Russian line of demarcation, about a couple of weeks ago had one of his arms hacked to pieces, solely because he refused to abandon his property. Fasli Pasha told me this, and promised to send names and all details, but as yet he has not done so.

I have heard of other similar cases, but such has been my difficulty in obtaining authentic details that I have here only mentioned the foregoing case. The system of the Bulgars otherwise shows what they are capable of. They form the police, and I have heard from eye-witnesses of young Bulgarian policemen severely ill-treating even old Mussulmans solely for not taking off their fezes on meeting them in the street. Many such cases have been brought before the Russians, but only to be dismissed without the slightest notice. Now that the Congress is known to be about to meet to take into consideration, I presume, all that concerns Bulgaria, one would have a right to expect a suspension of all this, but I am most credibly informed that the system is at the present moment more actively and persistently carried out than ever, no doubt in order to get rid of quickly as many Mussulmans as possible before they are interfered with by the Congress. As regards the Bulgarian administration of justice, from the numerous instances I have heard of, it is simply a contemptible mockery and a farce. No laws whatever are taken into consideration. Whoever has most friends in the Tribunal gains his cause. It is, therefore, difficult to imagine how they will get on amongst themselves alone when they obtain self-government.

The Turkish Administration may be bad enough, as we all know, but at any rate it allows reference to some law or some regulation; but judging from that of the Bulgars at the present moment if tolerated, one thing is most certain, viz., that it will be simply impossible for any other than a Bulgar to exist in the country. And as the Bulgar is known to be of a deeply envious nature, many of their own community, it is felt sure, will find their existence more unpleasant than they at present imagine. As to the character of the administration of justice by the Bulgars, what I have said is hardly to be wondered at when you consider the little experience they have had in such matters. Were their nature other than what I have described it to be, one might hope that they would soon learn and improve, for many of them do not lack intelligence, such as it is; but knowing what they undoubtedly are, no one who has had experience amongst them for a moment dreams that anything like the result professed to be sought after by the Russians can possibly be attained if left to themselves.

It is, therefore, much to be hoped that if the Congress grants them self-government that it will also provide for such control and supervision as will enable them to carry it on with some possible advantage to themselves and to those whose lot it may be to settle amongst them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 501.

Petition.

(Translation.)

To the Representative of the Governor-General at Shumla, from the villages Kamtchik Mohak, Kholab, Muraodi, Tchalovan, and Pramura.

A FEW days ago Russian troops entered the above villages, stating that they were remaining in them. We replied by objecting, as contrary to the views of our superiors. After tormenting us for four days they retreated, but left behind them Bulgar volunteers, who committed great outrages, whilst plundering the property of the Mussulmans and even killing some. Two days ago these Bulgars killed two individuals named Hassan and Aziz, of the village of Ruptcha, and they have attacked the village of Kamtchik Mohak five times, obliging us to conceal our families and children in the forest.

If your Excellency will send some troops to assist us, we will answer for keeping these people out of our villages; but if you do not, we beg you to indicate to us where to go for safety.

(Signatures of the village Chiefs.)

May 18, 1878.

No. 502.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 799.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 18, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 725 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, respecting Nourri Agha, the author of the massacre at Roum Yenikeui.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I informed your Lordship in my despatch above-mentioned that this Nourri Agha was in prison waiting his trial.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 502.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Bourgas, May 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, by the Austrian mail steamer which arrived here yesterday, of your Excellency's despatch of March 20th, inquiring for information respecting Nourri Agha, the leader of the massacre at Roum Yenikeui.

From persons who have just arrived here from Constantinople, I learn that Nourri Agha was, a few days since, still in the Turkish prisons of Stamboul, but I have no definite knowledge of where he may be now.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. A. BROPHY.

No. 503.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 507.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, forwarding a petition bearing numerous signatures of the Greeks of Sizopolis and other places, protesting against Bulgarian rule; and I also inclose translation of a petition from Widdin relating to the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 503.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, June 10, 1878.

Sir;

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Greek Vice-Consul of this town has to-day handed me the accompanying Petition from the Greek villages of Costi, Prolivo, and Calandjahi (all in the Caza of Bourgas), with the request that I should forward it to Her Majesty's Embassy, and beg your Excellency to acknowledge its receipt.

I am informed that every Greek town and village in this district is anxious to sign a similar Petition, but that in most cases this is rendered very difficult, if not impossible, by Russo-Bulgarian espionage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 503.

Petition against Bulgarian Rule from Sizopolis.

(Traduction en résumé.)

A l'Ambassade d'Angleterre.

LES soussignés, habitants de Sozopolis, protestent contre l'incorporation de leur pays à la Bulgarie. Ils relatent les procédés injustes et partials du nouveau Gouvernement Bulgare, qui ne fait aucun cas des Grecs et met à la tête de toutes les administrations des Bulgares, hommes ignorants, grossiers et inaptes. Ils soutiennent que la grande majorité des habitants est Grecque, et que cependant le Gouvernement susnommé, dans tous ses écrits officiels, emploie la langue et l'écriture Bulgares, lorsque les Bulgares même du pays se servent des lettres Grecques pour écrire leur langue. Ils ajoutent que l'institution d'un Gouvernement pareil ne paraît que maintenir les troubles en permanence, et que si les massacres de Batak ont valu aux Bulgares la position privilégiée qu'on leur accorde, les Grecs de la Thrace et de la Macédoine ont à citer dans leur histoire plus d'un épisode qui laisse Batak bien en arrière.

Ils concluent en disant qu'ils répètent leur protestation, de la manière la plus solennelle, contre une mesure qui menace de destruction leur existence nationale.

Le $\frac{4}{17}$ *Mai*, 1878.

(Signé) (Les Grecs habitants de Sozopolis ex-sujets Ottomans.)

Suivent de nombreuses signatures légalisées par l'Archevêque Grec de l'endroit.

Suivent ensuite les signatures des villages de Costio, Prolivo, et Galazalii, déclarant qu'ils partagent les sentiments du chef-lieu du Diocèse, et lesquelles sur leur demande sont également légalisées par le susdit Archevêque.

Inclosure 3 in No. 503.

Petition from Widdin.

(Traduction en résumé.)

A l'Ambassade d'Angleterre.

LES Soussignés ont lu que leur pays, en vertu du Traité de San Stéfano, a été incorporé dans la nouvelle Bulgarie. Ils déclarent qu'ils ne sauraient consentir à cette annexion injuste, attendu qu'ils sont, en tout point, supérieurs aux Bulgares et qu'ils forment la majorité dans le pays. Ils ajoutent que vouloir créer une administration Bulgare, c'est condamner le pays à des troubles et à des déchirements perpétuels, attendu que les éléments qui constitueraient une pareille administration sont non seulement inaptes et ignorants, mais la triste expérience a prouvé qu'on ne saurait leur confier le bien-être des populations. Les soussignés protestent de la manière la plus formelle contre la stipulation en question du Traité de San Stéfano, et en font appel à la justice des Puissances. Ils concluent en priant que leur pétition soit soumise au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

Le $\frac{16}{30}$ *Mai*, 1878.

Suivent de nombreux sceaux et signatures des habitants de la circonscription de Vidin.

No. 504.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 508. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship extract from a despatch addressed by the French Vice-Consul at Toultcha to the French Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of Russian military preparations at Toultcha.

M. Fournier showed me this despatch in strict confidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 504.

The French Vice-Consul at Toultcha to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

(Extrait.) *Toultcha, le 15 Juin*, 1878.

DEPUIS la dernière dépêche que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser à votre Excellence le 4 de ce mois la situation n'a pas varié dans nos parages. Les préparatifs belliqueux se poursuivent avec la même activité, surtout à Sulina et à Kustendje, et j'entends dire qu'il en est de même à Ismail. A Sulina, les Russes travaillent avec acharnement; torpilles, munitions, canons, et ouvriers du génie débarquent toujours. Au dire des gens de l'art les épaulements des batteries, construits en sable sur un terrain meuble et déprimé, présenteraient peu de solidité et ne constitueraient pas une défense très sérieuse.

A Kustendji, les fortifications qui défendent la place du côté de la mer, auraient, à ce qu'on m'assure, une valeur bien plus considérable, étant établies sur le roc et dans des positions qui dominent le large. De nombreuses troupes continuent à occuper cette ville.

A Toultcha, le chiffre de la garnison n'a pas varié d'une manière sensible et peut être évalué pour le moment à 4,000 ou 5,000 hommes (infanterie, artillerie, genie). Deux batteries nouvelles viennent d'être établies et armées de canons Krupp de gros calibre sur le penchant nord-est des collines dites "Vieux Toultcha," au nord-ouest de la ville; elles commandent le fleuve en aval. Le nombre des ouvrages entourant la place se trouve ainsi porté à neuf batteries, desquelles cinq sont déjà armés, savoir :—

Batterie de la poudrière.
Batterie de l'Arsenal.
Batterie de rocher dit "Pierre de Toultcha."
Deux batteries sur la colline dite "Vieux Toultcha."

Il est à remarqué qu'il n'a été placé encore aucune pièce d'artillerie du côte de la campagne, c'est-à-dire sur les redoutes construites par les Turcs sur la route de Babadagh au Sud et sur le point culminant de la colline du "Vieux Toultcha" au nord-ouest sur la route de Isaktcha. Un dépôt énorme de pierres continue à s'accumuler sur les bords du fleuve. Les chalands sont tous prêts à les transporter à des endroits désignés. Il n'est pas douteux qu'en quarante-huit heures le cours du Danube pourrait être de nouveau obstrué et rendu complétement inaccessible aux canonnières du plus faible tirant d'eau.

Enfin, un avis placardé ces jours derniers dans la ville informe les habitants du sandjak qu'ils sont repris d'argence afin de travailler à la réparation des routes de la province. L'emprisonnement pour les personnes, une amende de 100 à 1,000 roubles pour les villages récalcitrants, telle est la sanction de cette ordonnance. Il est promis d'ailleurs par le Gouvernement local que ces travaux seront rétribués.

A Toultcha l'état des esprits se serrent naturellement de cette situation. On croit à la guerre et il faut avouer que l'ensemble des faits qui se produisent ici n'est pas de nature à calmer ces appréhensions. Je dois dire, d'ailleurs, que l'opinion émise en toute occasion par les officiers et par les employés supérieurs du Gouvernement civil est qu'elle aura lieu.

En attendant, l'Administration agit ici comme si l'état actuel des choses devait se perpétuer. Les denominations Russes viennent d'être données à toutes les rues de Toultcha.

M. Drokaloff, Agent Consulaire de Russie à Varna, vient d'être nommé Vice-Gouverneur de la province. Le nouveau fonctionnaire est d'origine Bulgare.

No. 505.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 809.)

Therapia, June 19, 1878.

My Lord,

MY French colleague has been good enough to show me a despatch from the French Vice-Consul at Rodosto, stating that some Greeks of Marmara had made complaint to the Russian authorities at that place (Rodosto) that Greek vessels had been attacked by pirates off the island, some having been only plundered, and others plundered and destroyed. They alleged their belief that the pirates were Lazes, and asked for the protection of the Russian authorities. It is scarcely probable that Lazes should be concerned in these acts of piracy, if they have really been committed; and it cannot but be suspected that these complaints have been got up in order to afford a pretence for interference in the island by the Russians, or perhaps even for its occupation by them. If there are any pirates in the Sea of Marmara they are probably the Greek inhabitants of the islands in it, who have a bad reputation. As Admiral Hornby has, I believe, sent a vessel of war to watch the Island of Marmara, we shall obtain trustworthy information as to what is going on there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 505*.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 86. Confidential.)

Belgrade, June 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I FOUND M. Grovitch, the Minister for Foreign Affairs *ad interim*, in excellent spirits this morning, owing to the prospects of Servia, which, he says, have every chance of being improved by the Congress.

M. Ristich appears to have written from Vienna that his interview with Count Andrassy had been very satisfactory, that the Austrian Minister had made no difficulties as to the recognition of Servian independence, and had even raised no objections to most of the annexations coveted by Servia.

Such support is, of course, very gratifying and reassuring to the Government here, whose difficulties, however, of organization and of administration will begin when the Congress has settled the two points of independence and aggrandizement.

The abolition of the capitulations will throw upon the Government a responsibility and duties as yet unknown to them, and will oblige them at once to enter into an Extradition Treaty, as well as commercial understanding with its immediate neighbours.

The increased territory will necessitate the keeping up of a larger standing army, so as to provide garrisons for Nisch, Pirot, and Vranja, if these places are conceded to them, and hence a heavier charge on the public purse.

The rate of taxation will have to be raised to meet the increased expenditure, and a more patriotic Assembly will have to be elected to vote the increased supplies called forth by the new obligations of the new State.

It is not probable that, for the present, the Prince will seek a higher title, though there are not wanting those, including his own wife, who would see it with pleasure, but his civil list will have to be increased.

Again, means must be found for the construction of the railway from the capital to Aloxinatz, and the people will be called upon to bear their part in the expenses of construction.

The national credit must be placed on a secure footing, and, for this purpose, not only must the interest on the home and foreign loans be paid up, but guarantees be given of future punctual payment.

These are so many primary obligations which will have at once to be faced, and for which Ministers are as yet but ill prepared.

Three of the richest provinces have suffered so much from the war of 1876, that not only can they not contribute to the Public Treasury for five years, but all taxation has been remitted to them for that period, and support is afforded them by the Government for that length of time.

The occupation of Old Servia has obliged the Government to keep up a standing army out of proportion with its means for supporting it, and the Public Treasury is drained of every ducat it possesses.

The want of patriotism throughout Servia is such that no one can be relied upon, and the feud between the followers of the present dynasty and those of Kara George is so inveterate, that it must for long militate against that national union in which alone a good Government can find the necessary lever to stimulate the energy and activity of the people.

The Servians are not a poor nation; their wants are few, their requirements next to nothing. The luxurious tastes of more civilized countries have not yet found their way even into the capital, and the national character is thrifty and sparing.

Indeed, all savings are hoarded, and I believe, from what I hear on reliable authority, that very large sums are thus left out of circulation, which the institution of good banking establishments might otherwise cause to fructify.

Thus, while on the one hand the difficulties which present themselves are not insuperable, owing to the material means existing by which they can be overcome, they may in the end prove insurmountable owing to the want of patriotism which can call forth these means, and the antipathy of dynasty which, it must be allowed, the reigning Prince and his Ministers have done nothing to allay.

Their conviction is that nothing but repression will put it down, but this disposition makes me apprehend that, if left to itself entirely, this country will recur to measures so absolute and so Draconic as to call forth in the future very strong remonstrances on the part of Europe, if not a plausible foreign occupation.

This possible contingency would make it a question whether at the same time that the Congress gives this country the boon it asks of it, it is not advisable for the European Powers to retain a hold over it, lest its future erratic course may engage their attention again.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 506.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 50. Political.)

Galatz, June 19, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 49, Political, of the 15th instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that there is now a Russian

camp of about 2,000 men of various regiments, with two batteries of light field-guns, between Galatz and Barbosli.

Russian officers have been surveying the high ground in the vicinity of Galatz, stating that they are about to make fortifications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 507.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 812.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 20, 1878.*

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegram, on the 14th instant, that a well-informed Greek merchant had stated to me that the Russian authorities were entering into contracts for the supply of bread for Russian troops for one month at thirteen different places, and that amongst them was the Island of Marmara. I questioned my informant closely on the subject, and he persisted in his assertion that Marmara was included in the list of places given to a near relative who was making the arrangements to take the contract. Last night this gentleman called upon me with this list, written in Greek characters, and explained to me that, in consequence of the writing not being very clear (the *g* being like an *m*), Marmara had been read for Margara (or Malgara). The mistake had thus arisen which had led him to make the communication to me as to the intention of the Russians to occupy the Island of Marmara. I inclose the list of the places which he gave me. Had I seen it when he gave me the information above referred to, I should have suspected, from the order in which the places are mentioned, that "Malgara" was intended, and not "Marmara."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 508.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 384. Secret.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Pansa, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, informed me that he had this morning seen an excellent authority, who stated that no arrangement could last which was based upon promises given by the Turks, who, even now, by the manner in which they were levying taxes, were breaking their promises in Thessaly, and that that province is consequently again in arms.

A movement of troops towards the Turkish frontiers is reported in the newspapers.

I have communicated the above to Sir Austen Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 509.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 385.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Hora" newspaper, in translation, which states that the Turks have taken military possession of the strong positions on Mount Pelion, that the inhabitants of the villages in Thessaly go about armed, firing upon the Turks when they attempt to enter Christian villages to collect taxes, that the Turks attempted to disarm the villagers, but without success, and hints that the insurrection is not really at an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 509.

Extract from the "Hora" of June $\frac{7}{19}$, 1878.

THE "Ethnikon Pneuma" published yesterday the following:—

"According to news from Thessaly the Turks have taken military possession of the strong positions on Mount Pelion. The inhabitants of the villages go about armed, firing upon the Turks when they attempt to enter Christian villages to collect taxes; they send away and fire upon the farmers of taxes. The same state of things likewise exists in the interior of Thessaly and in the villages in the Plain of Platanos. The Turks attempted to disarm the villagers, but surrendered to their threats of resistance. The Christians fearing lest the Turks should betray them and attack them suddenly, go about armed. The opinion throughout Thessaly remains the same, although in many parts a kind of armistice may exist rather than tranquillity and cessation of the insurrection."

No. 510.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 386.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the "Ephimeris" newspaper of to-day reports that urgent orders were issued yesterday for the movement of troops, that four battalions (about 4,000 men) are to leave Chalcis for the frontiers, on the plea that a band of twenty brigands had pillaged a convent, where a fight took place, in which one of the monks was killed. 4,000 men appears a large number to put in movement to watch a band of 20 brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 511.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 388.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Photiadés Bey, the Turkish Minister, has informed me that he made inquiries yesterday of the Prime Minister respecting the Greek military preparations. M. Coumoundouros denied that any preparations were being made. Photiadés Bey also informed me that he had received a telegram from the Turkish Consul stating that orders had been received at Chalcis for four battalions to hold themselves in readiness to march to the frontiers. He has urged his Government to increase their forces in Thessaly.

I have sent the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 512.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 389.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 385 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that the "Ephimeris" newspaper of to-day contains a paragraph to the following effect: "We are of opinion that as soon as the Congress hears that serious disturbances have broken out in the Greek provinces of Turkey, the basis laid down for the reorganization of Turkey will fall through; that the Congress will see that their sittings are held in vain, and that the Ottoman dynasty must first be entirely expunged from Europe."

The same paper of yesterday's date states that information has been received from Larissa stating that bands of brigands are infesting Thessaly, that troops have been

sent against them, and that some persons characterize them, not as brigands, but as insurgents.

I may mention to your Lordship that the "Ephimeris" showed itself very much opposed to our endeavours to pacify Thessaly and that it has constantly sneered at British policy with regard to Greece. I was told some time ago that this paper was inspired by Russia; and I was told to-day upon good authority that Russian Agents are believed to have inspired the language to which I have alluded in this despatch, and which, if so, would look as if Russia wished to see fresh complications arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 513.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 300. Confidential.)
Athens, June 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my despatches Nos. 385, 388, and 389 of to-day's date, that I called upon the Turkish Minister this afternoon, and that he told me that the reports in the Greek papers as to brigandage and disturbances in Thessaly, and as to the movement of Greek troops, were causing him much anxiety, notwithstanding M. Coumoundouros' denial as to military preparations and an assurance on his part that the levying of some new battalions of troops was with a pacific object; and his Excellency stated that three days ago he had written to the Porte pointing out that the weakening of the military forces in Thessaly at present was a mistake, and that the Government should send some more troops there at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 514.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 301.)
Athens, June 20, 1878.

My Lord,

A RUMOUR having reached me that, in the event of M. Delyanni being only admitted to the Congress to be consulted, the Greek Government would order him to leave Berlin, I asked M. Coumoundouros yesterday what truth there was in this report, and he replied that the Government had come to no decision on the matter, but that he thought that M. Delyanni would take and follow your Lordship's advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 515.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 87. Secret and Confidential.)
Belgrade, June 20, 1878.

My Lord,

GENERAL FADEIEFF, the Russian journalist and soldier, arrived here on the 17th instant, just after the departure of the Prince, and is evidently making a prolonged stay, though his ultimate intention is to go to Agram, and thence to Italy.

His visit here at a time when he can be of no ostensible use to the Servian cause is naturally attracting notice, and I have reason to believe that it is connected with the agitation which the Slav Committee at Moscow are anxious to keep up in Bosnia.

It is unnecessary to enter into the details which forcibly bring this purpose to light, but your Lordship will not take it amiss if I venture to call your special attention to the future position of Bosnia in regard to this country.

The relations of the two countries which, ethnologically, belong to the same race

and same religion, must depend upon the status which the Congress now sitting will create for both.

As your Lordship is aware, the Mahommedan Begs and their followers in Bosnia number about 350,000, and belong to the Servian race, whose language they speak, and to whose religion they would find no difficulty to return, their embracing Islamism having at one time been the result of political necessity.

Together with the 600,000 Servian Rayahs they entertain the greatest dislike both of Turkish rule and of Austrian interference.

Any attempt to preserve a Turkish administration in Bosnia will be followed by insurrection, and probably by the most fearful massacres, if the threats of some of the most influential chiefs, such as Feim Effendi and others, are to be believed.

But should Austria occupy Bosnia the hatred against it will soon betray itself, and the province will become the focus of Slavonic risings and intrigue.

The policy of Austria for the last few years has exasperated the Bosnians, and the sympathies which it has endeavoured to elicit on the part of the Roman Catholic population, which numbers about 200,000, have been nullified by the treatment of Servians on Austrian territory.

Thus an occupation of Bosnia by Austria, while it may not meet with actual resistance, though even this contingency is not improbable, is certain to be productive of interior difficulties, which will try Austrian patience to the utmost.

These considerations, founded on fact, are sufficient to show that any anti-Austrian intriguer has materials enough at his command, whenever he wishes to fan the flames of discontent, and General Fadeieff is too well known to be credited with any other conviction than that Austria alone stands in the way of Slav development.

Since his arrival here he has already seen all those who, by their conservative principles, are supposed to be staunch adherents of Russia, and, by exciting their ambitious views, has developed his idea of forming a Committee in Belgrade from which agitation in Bosnia can be directed, and to which the Bosnian malcontents can appeal.

The General is, of course, supposed to be acting on his own responsibility; but his method points to a concerted plan, and his unofficial character betrays marks of considerable official favour.

There is no doubt that the development of Slavonic nationalities must give rise to great and dangerous changes in their present constitution, but to no country is this consideration more weighty than to Austria-Hungary, against the loyalty of whose large Slav population every effort of Austria's enemies will in future be directed.

General Fadeieff, who considers "Constantinople the way to Vienna," is aware of this, and is sowing the seeds of that discontent which he hopes will some day undermine the Austrian Empire.

I have ventured to dwell at some length upon this subject because there are not wanting proofs that the Slav Committees are at work to counterbalance the results of the Congress in not allowing the formation of too strong a Slavonic Power to the south of Hungary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 516.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 813.)
Therapia, June 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translations of petitions, which I have received from various parts of European Turkey, protesting against Bulgarian supremacy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 516.

Petition from West Bulgaria.

(Traduction en résumé.)

LES habitants de Kustendil, Plevna, Orchanié, Lofteha, Nicopoli, Radomir, Shakir-koui, Sofia, et Doubnidjé se plaignent des mauvais traitements et des persécutions dont ils sont l'objet de la part des Bulgares, désirant rester sous la sujétion Ottomane, et protestent contre l'établissement d'une administration Slave dans leur pays.

(Suivent plusieurs signatures.)

Le 27 Mai, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 516.

Petition from Prisrend.

(Traduction.)

LES Soussignés espèrent que leurs pétitions et protestations précédents seront prises en considération par le Congrès; cependant, afin d'assurer davantage leur but, à savoir, de ne pas passer sous la juridiction d'aucun autre Gouvernement, ils se sont réunis à Prézerin, et s'empressent de répéter leurs demandes et protestations. Ils exposent que leur pays est habité en grande partie par des Musulmans, que le peu de Bulgares qu'il y a parlent Albanais, qu'il est injuste de soumettre les autres races de Roumélie, qui sont plus ou moins civilisés et instruites, qui possèdent la terre et ont donné quelque preuve de capacité administrative, à une race de laboureurs inepte et ignorante, telle que celle des Bulgares; que créer une administration Bulgare ce serait perpétuer les désordres et l'anarchie, et causer le malheur du pays, et qu'ils protestent de nouveau contre une telle injustice que l'Europe ne saurait tolérer et que le Congrès ne saurait sanctionner. Ils concluent en déclarant que si l'Europe n'ordonne pas tant aux Monténégrins qu'aux Serbiens, de rendre ce qu'ils ont pris du pays des Guegues en Bosnie, ils prendraient tous les armes, en mettant leur espoir en Dieu. Ils prient que cette seconde supplique soit communiquée au Congrès.

Le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Suivent les signatures des représentants des Guegues.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 516.

Petition from Calcandelen.

(Traduction.)

LES habitants de Calcandelen disent que leurs pays est habité par 30,000 Musulmans, et il y a 8,000 Chrétiens; que tant les uns que les autres sont de race Albanaise, et vivent en frères; qu'ils ne sauraient accepter aucune autre juridiction que celle de la Sublime Porte, et que, l'institution chez eux d'une administration Bulgare équivalent à leur anéantissement; ils sont prêts à faire tous les sacrifices pour s'y soustraire. Ils en appellent à la justice de qui de droit.

Le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Mai*, 8878.

(Suivent de nombreuses signatures Musulmanes et Chrétiennes).

Inclosure 4 in No. 516.

Petition from Inhabitants of Doubnitcha and Djouma, &c.

(Traduction en résumé.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

LES Soussignés se plaignent des mauvais traitements et persécutions dont les Musulmans de Roumélie ont été l'objet de la part des Slaves en général, et protestent contre l'institution d'une administration Slave dans leur pays. Ils ajoutent qu'ils

désirent rester dans la sujétion Ottomane et s'en réfèrent pour cela à la justice de l'Europe.

Le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Mai*, 1878.

(Signé) (Les Représentants des habitants de Doubnitcha qui resident actuellement comme émigrés à Nevrecope.)
(Les Représentants des émigrés de Djouma, de Sofia, Bercofitcha, Samucow et Svratcha.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 516.

Petition from Widdin, &c.

(Traduction en résumé.)

LES habitants des districts de Vidin, de Lom, de Bercofitcha, et de Rahova, exposent les mille et un tourments qu'ils souffrent entre les mains des Bulgares, la partialité du Gouvernement institué par les Russes, et le peu de sûreté de la vie, de l'honneur, et de la propriété Musulmanes. Ils disent que, ne pouvant plus supporter la vie qu'ils mènent et ne pouvant subsister que sous l'égide de Sa Majesté le Sultan ils se sont adressés à Son Altesse le Grand Vizir pour le prier de vouloir leur procurer les moyens d'émigrer où ils pourront retrouver la tranquillité et la sûreté de leur vie et de leur honneur. Ils prient que le Gouvernement Anglais veuillent bien coopérer à cette œuvre de charité.

Le 20 *Mai*, 1878.

(Suivent plusieurs signatures.)

No. 517.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 811.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, respecting the conduct of the Bulgarians towards the Greeks in the neighbourhood of Bourgas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 517.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.) *Bourgas, June* , 1878.

YOU can hardly imagine the exasperation now felt by the Greek Rayahs against both Russians and Bulgarians; for the moment they would be only too delighted to ally themselves with the Mussulmans in driving out the two other branches of the Eastern Church, and even if they were offered the alternative of the old Turkish rule, with all its faults, they would prefer it to Russo-Bulgarian domination. As for myself I am disgusted with both protector and protégé, more especially with the latter, from whom I had hoped better things, but whom I now acknowledge to be, at present, unworthy of even a relative amount of freedom, because he and his "official" countrymen convert that freedom into licence, tyranny, and corruption; there are plenty of honest Bulgarians amongst the peasantry, but they are now worse off than they were under the Turks and amongst the "ruling classes." I am afraid I could not name one in ten as being anything but most corrupt, and in thus speaking I allude to three or four towns, whose present governing councils I am personally acquainted with.

To revert to the feeling between Bulgarians and Greeks; the head man at Achialo (next to the Russians) is a Bulgarian named Brakaloff, a native of Kalofer, whose younger brother, some seven years since, stole some hundreds of pounds entrusted to him by his father, and went off to Wallachia or to Russia, whence he returned last year in the character of an officer of the Bulgarian Legion. He has lately been round the Bulgarian villages ordering the peasants to hold no communication and to have no

commercial dealings with the Greeks, but, in the event of war, to be ready to fall upon, plunder, and assassinate them. To the credit of the Bulgarians I must say that they themselves have informed upon this man by telling the Greeks at Achialo, but the seed sown is sure to produce something, even if the crop be not plentiful; and these things, of course, get to be known, and create a feeling of hatred between the two races which will hardly be eradicated in long years.

The Civil Governor (Naczalnik, Director) of Achialo, an officer of the Artillery of the Guard, has frequently struck with his own hand some of the most respectable Greek inhabitants of the town, calling them Greek brigands, Greek assassins, &c. Lately nineteen Greeks (Rayahs) were conscripted from this town to join the Bulgarian Legion, on the ground that they lived in a quarter called the Bulgar Mahallé, and must therefore be Slavs; seven or eight of them managed to escape, but the others were dragged off when the time came for the recruits to leave, and a painful scene took place; the women and children tried to prevent the soldiers taking them, the men resisted and were tied up with ropes, the streets had to be cleared by soldiers, two of the Greeks threw themselves on the ground, and were thus dragged along till one of them fainted, and at last they were all packed, bound as they were, in carts.

No. 518.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 816.) *Therapia, June* 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a petition from the Sandjak of Widdin, in which the Mussulmans, by whom it is signed, complain of the treatment they are receiving at the hands of the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 518.

Petition from the Sandjac of Widdin.

(Traduction.)

DU Sandjac de Vidin on expose qu'à la suite d'un coup de fusil tiré par une main inconnue, on a arrêté quarante personnes environ, et l'on a administré cinquante coups de verges à chacun, sous la pretexte que c'était eux qui avaient tiré le coup de fusil en question.

On soutient qu'il n'y a pas une seule arme entre les mains des Musulmans, attendu que le Gouvernement Russe a eu soin de n'en pas laisser, et que par conséquent il leur était matériellement impossible de faire le coup de feu dont on les accuse.

On ajoute que le Gouvernement Bulgare retient encore sept Musulmans en prison pour cet affaire, et menace de faire fusiller tous les Musulmans si encore un autre coup de fusil venait à être tiré. On demande la protection.

(Signature de Vidin.)

No. 519.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 817.) *Therapia, June* 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Blunt respecting the return of the Thessalian refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 519.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Velestino, June* 9, 1878.

I RECEIVED this morning the inclosed report from Mr. Longworth, dated Armyro, the 6th instant, relative to the repatriation of the refugee families in that district.

Said Pasha, the Governor, and Redjib Pasha, the Military Commandant of Thessaly, will visit with me to-day Armyro; from there we shall proceed to Pharsala, Domoro, Carditza, and Tricalla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 519.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Armyro, June* 6, 1878.

I HAVE to report that, in pursuance of your instructions of the 29th ultimo, I arrived here on the 1st instant to watch whether the promises of the Porte for the pacification of this province are being carried out by the local authorities. On my arrival at Armyro I found the district in a most unsatisfactory condition, the surrounding hills being occupied by insurgents and brigands, the people in great fear, the villages uninhabited, and the ripe harvest ungathered.

The following are a few momoranda of my proceedings to this date.

Saturday, June 1.—I left Volo for Armyro, and at 7 A.M. I was stopped in a pass by a band of 64 brigands under a certain Yani Candarghi. The treatment I received was kind, though my men were disarmed and robbed of their money. I found the brigands most willing to abandon their calling and be disbanded on condition that their persons should in no way be molested, and I therefore promised to do my best for them in that way. They later in the day restored what they had taken from my men, and I also persuaded them to release the two Turkish and four Christian prisoners captured previous to my arrival. After a few hours' detention we were permitted to go, having arranged to meet the next at Caraghadji Cartalis Chiflik, two hours from Armyro.

At 3 P.M. I called upon the civil and military authorities to present my papers. I made known to them what had befallen me on the road, and acquainted them with my intention to meet with the brigands at Caraghadji.

Having inquired whether any representatives of the local authorities would accompany me to the village to aid in the disbandment of the brigands, they expressed themselves willing to comply with whatever measures I thought best in the matter.

Sunday, June 2.—We proceeded to Caraghadji to meet the brigands. The party consisted of the Mufti, Hakim Effendi, on behalf of the civil authorities, the Secretary of the Battalion, Zephyr Effendi, on behalf of the military authorities, a Greek priest, three Greek gentlemen, and myself and five servants. Our excursion there was to no purpose, the brigands were nowhere to be seen, and the villages were uninhabited. We returned to Armyro, leaving a Greco-Wallach to await them, and inform us of their intention.

Monday, June 3.—The Greco-Wallach returned from Caraghadji at 1 P.M. to tell me that the brigands were there, and that they requested to see me. I therefore made arrangement to meet them the same day. Many reports are coming in of excesses committed by this band, principally robberies. The Turkish troops stationed here are insufficient to prevent these proceedings.

Tuesday, June 4.—I proceeded to Caraghadji accompanied by Nahin Effendi, Zephyr Effendi, and three or four others, to come to some understanding with the brigands. We could not persuade the whole band to come to Armyro. They mistrusted the Turks, and would not believe in their promises, fearing there might be some repetition of the deception practised here some eight years ago towards eight brigands who were invited to give themselves up, and were afterwards treacherously put to death. After some trouble, however, I succeeded in inducing five of the leaders to accompany me to Armyro to see for themselves that there is nothing to fear. We took the precaution of first making the local authorities acquainted with this, suggesting at the same time that such a reception should be given them as to make

the matter generally known, and the people understand that they are under the protection of the authorities. The principal functionaries, the military band, and a guard of honour turned out to receive them in the midst of a large crowd, and their entrance was consequently made with some display. I heard to-day that the refugees at Sirbi desire to gather in and carry off into Greece their harvest. They intend to do this by coming into the Plain of Armyro, escorted by a large party of insurgents; great fear prevails here in consequence.

Wednesday, June 5.—Three of the brigand Chiefs left for Caraghadji to bring in their companions, being now thoroughly convinced that they are quite secure from all harm. The Kaïmakam, Zephyr Effendi, and myself, had arranged yesterday to meet the refugees at Callevici, a border village in Turkish territory a few minutes from Sirbi. We proceeded there to-day, escorted by about thirty insurgents. We asked the refugees why they do not avail themselves of the amnesty. The reason they gave was simply because they feared the Turks. After some difficulties, however, they consented to do so, on condition that no Turkish troops should for the present enter their villages. To-day no less than 130 families left Sirbi for their own villages, and Demitri Enunimitri, their headman, had promised me that 700 more will leave for their homes within the space of four days. There will, therefore, remain behind only 200 families, the inhabitants of the burnt village of Platano, who have also the intention to return as soon as they have constructed their huts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 519.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Armyro, Thessaly, June* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a copy in Turkish of a telegram dated yesterday, which Rejeb Pasha received this morning from his second in command at Larissa, Iskenda Pasha, furnishing a summary of the most recent reports which have been sent in by the military authorities in Thessaly, relative to the pacification of the late insurgent districts.

I am sorry to say that conflicting counsels appear to prevail among the refugees from this district who are still in Greece; many of them, especially those from the large village of Platano, who made arrangements to come back, now refuse to do so till the Congress meets. But, on the other hand, I have heard from a reliable quarter that they are dissuaded from returning to their homes by the promise held out to them by certain parties in Greece that an Englishman will soon arrive in Sirbi, a Greek frontier town where most of these refugees are located, to distribute relief in clothing, money, &c.

The Ottoman authorities in the meantime are doing their best to afford every facility to these refugees, and Mr. Longworth, who continues to be in communication with them, hopes to succeed in inducing the majority of them to come back.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 520.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 818.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade, reporting a movement of Russian troops to surround Shumla and Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 520.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, June* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that from the information I have received within the last few days from reliable sources at Rustchuk there is no doubt but that the Russians are placing their forces from Rustchuk and Roumania in such positions as to enable them to attack Shumla and Varna to the best advantage.

Most of the troops at Rustchuk have been moved to Silistria, Rasgrad, Eski-Djuma, and Osman Bazar. More troops have also arrived at Bazardjik. The Vali states that between Bazardjik and Baltchik there are about fifty battalions, but whether they have come from Silistria or Medjidié, I have not been able to ascertain, and, as I had the honour to state in a previous despatch, the advanced posts between Rasgrad and Shumla, reaching as far as Durankeui, have been considerably reinforced by artillery as well as by infantry.

Should war break out, it is fully believed that both Shumla and Varna will be attacked at once; and so convinced are the Turks of this, that the Defterdar with his archives has been transferred to Varna.

Should the Porte have the intention of holding these two places, if it is not practicable to reinforce them, at least they should be no longer weakened; and if the authorities had sufficient arms for the population, I believe that in case of attack every Mussulman capable of bearing arms would come forward to support the troops.

Pravady, also a very important point between Varna and Shumla, should be attended to, as its occupation by the Russians would cut off Shumla entirely. The Russians at Rustchuk and Bazardjik continually express the importance they attach both to Varna and Shumla, as they think with Silistria, Bazardjik, and Shumla in their possession, the taking of Varna would not be so difficult a matter.

At all events, this subject merits the attention of the Porte before it is too late. A gentleman just arrived from Rustchuk tells me that a number of German artillery and engineer officers have arrived there, twenty-five of whom embarked for Silistria while he was there. Whether they are Russian or German subjects he could not ascertain, but he knows that they could not talk a word of Russian, and at Rustchuk they were called Germans, and not Russians.

Parties are hard at work all along the railway from Varna to Rustchuk, and the Director-in-chief tells me that he thinks by the end of next month he will be able to send passenger trains from this to Rustchuk. This is being done at the urgent desire of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 521.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, June* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to the telegram I received from the Prince of Montenegro, copy of which I transmitted in my despatch No. 23 of the 16th instant, and the recent conflict between the Turks of Scutari and the Montenegrins, I have the honour to report that the difficulties now appear to have been settled, and hostilities to have ceased.

Those of my colleagues accredited to the Prince, and consequently well informed, state that the whole affair, by which some seven or eight were killed on each side, arose from a misunderstanding as to the correct limits of their respective lines; that the mistake has now been rectified, and that the Governor of Scutari has not only expressed his regret at what had occurred, but severely punished two officers accused of being the authors of the conflict.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 522.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 25. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, June 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General von Poppenheim, who, during the last year and a half, was in command of a brigade at Ragusa, has now been transferred to Cattaro as Commander-in-chief of the forces stationed in Southern Dalmatia, and that the latter place will be put in a state of defence.

Cattaro, as I have already reported, has for some time past been causing anxiety to the Government at Vienna. Its inhabitants are every day becoming more hostile to Austria and friendly to everything Slav, more particularly to the Prince of Montenegro, whom they look upon as their lawful Sovereign.

Some time back a sentry was shot at and badly wounded; and other indications exist that were a conflict to take place between Austria and Montenegro, the town of Cattaro would side with the latter.

I have several times had occasion to report how, during the late war, munitions of every description were allowed to be conveyed across Austrian territory on to that of Montenegro under the very eyes of those whose duty it was to see that the conditions of neutrality were strictly carried out.

General Rodich, as your Lordship is aware, is a Slav by birth, and has probably been allowed to retain the Governorship of Dalmatia with the view to causing satisfaction to the Slav inhabitants of this province, who look upon him as their chief and protector. It is he, therefore, who is now responsible if the munitions of war with which Montenegro has been so plentifully supplied should some day be used against Austria.

General Poppenheim's proclivities are quite the reverse. He is a Bohemian by birth, and thoroughly hates everything Slav. It has often struck me that he, having accepted his present appointment at the Emperor's special request, has been placed here as a sort of "safety-valve" and a check on his chief, General Rodich. By his recent appointment to Cattaro the opinion I have always entertained on this point has to a certain extent been confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 523.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 471.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 24, 1878.*

THE inopportune publication in the "Globe" produced here at first a feeling of irritation, which found expression in all the newspapers of every shade of political opinion.

Her Majesty's Government were severely censured for having, as was assumed, abandoned the principles for which they had been universally applauded of regarding the revision of the Treaty of San Stefano as a matter of general European interest, not to be made dependent on the interests of any particular State; and the supporters of Count Andrassy complained with some bitterness that his Excellency had been misled into officially declaring to the Chambers that the first announcement in the "Globe," which had since been to a great extent verified, was unworthy of all credit.

I have, however, the satisfaction of being able to state that this feeling has now, to a great extent, subsided, and that the reports which have been received from Berlin of the general agreement of the British and Austro-Hungarian Plenipotentiaries, and of the cordiality with which they act together, have given universal satisfaction.

The Vienna Press very generally attributes the publication of the "Globe" to an attempt on the part of Russia to sow distrust between the British and Austrian Governments, and it now proclaims with some exultation the entire failure of an unworthy proceeding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 524.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 24, 1878.*

I HAVE heard to-day, on the authority of a person who is well informed, but who requested me to consider his communication as confidential, that an arrangement has been come to between the Russian and Servian Governments to allow the entrance into Servia of a strong Russian force, in the event of a war resulting from an impossibility of Austria and Russia coming to an understanding in the Congress.

The occupation of Gladova, which has become a very strong fortress, is thus secured to the Russians as well as the roads to Bosnia in the south.

I do not gather that the understanding exists on paper, but of its existence in reality there appears to be little question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 525.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 91. Secret.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 25, 1878.*

SO much uneasiness has prevailed here of late, and warlike rumours have been so in the ascendant, that I took the opportunity this morning of expressing to M. Grovitch the hope that this country was not going at once to forfeit the goodwill of the Powers now deliberating upon its future, by following blindly the dictates of any particular one among them.

His Excellency assured me, in reply, "that, for the present at least, neither Russia nor Servia had taken any steps in consequence of the Austrian mobilization, and that the Prince and his Government, relying on the prospects of peace which the Congress opened to them, had not thought of the contingency of an unfortunate issue."

"Our reports from M. Ristich," continued M. Grovitch, "lead us to believe that we have come to an understanding with Austria, and have not to apprehend an Austrian occupation of our territory."

"I cannot say," added the Minister significantly, "that, should war unfortunately break out, we should not have to look to the Power most likely to protect our interests, but I can assure you that no written engagement exists between the Russians and ourselves, although we were allies during the last war, and that alliance cannot be said to be at an end until the situation is settled under which it was born."

This language is too plain to need much comment, but your Lordship will perceive that it indirectly confirms the confidential information which my previous despatch, No. 90, records.

The military necessity of strengthening the Russian rear, in the event of a war with Austria, explains besides the prudence which dictates an understanding with Servia on the part of Russia.

The latter country, however, by all reliable accounts, appears to be too exhausted and too disgusted with the Bulgarians it has done so much to relieve, to wish earnestly for another war, and especially one with Austria with the possibility of hostilities with England besides, and hence I believe that the rumours which are spreading here ever since General Fadeieff's arrival are mostly due to that anti-Austrian agitator, whose mission I have explained in my despatch No. 87 of the 20th instant.

He is in daily communication with the Bosnian insurgent chiefs, to whom he has lately sent large sums of money, and M. Grovitch himself declared to me that the General's presence was the principal cause of the existing apprehensions, "though his agitation had nothing to do with Servia."

His object in this can only be to throw discredit on Austrian intentions, and thereby excite Slav fears and jealousies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 526.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 341.)
My Lord, *Rome, June 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Italie," giving an account of an interpellation addressed to the Government in the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies of the 21st instant, relative to the Memorandum purporting to have been signed between your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff, published in the "Globe" newspaper, and the reply of the President of the Council on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 526.

Extract from "L'Italia," of June 21, 1878.

M. LE PRÉSIDENT annonce au Président du Conseil une interrogation des Honorables Cavallotti, Elia, Marcora, et autres, relative à la publication du Mémorandum Anglo-Russe et à d'autres questions de politique étrangère.

M. Cairoli, Président du Conseil: L'interpellation qui m'est adressée touche aux points les plus délicats d'une question qui est actuellement soumise au Congrès de Berlin. Une discussion sur ces points ne serait évidemment pas opportune dans les Parlements des Etats qui sont représentés au Congrès. Les Ministres Britanniques, répondant à une interrogation concernant le Mémorandum publié par le "Globe" et déclarant que ce document est à la fois incomplet et inexact, ont ajouté ne pas pouvoir dire autre chose; et le Parlement Anglais, où tout se discute, a cependant compris les motifs du silence et n'a point insisté. Je suis sûr que ma prière sera également accueillie par les honorables Députés qui voudraient aujourd'hui m'interroger.

A plusieurs reprises, et notamment en répondant aux interpellations qui lui ont été addressées dans la Chambre et dans le Sénat, le Gouvernement a eu l'occasion d'exposer ses vues sur la question qui préoccupe les esprits. La Chambre peut être sûre que les instructions de nos Plénipotentiaires sont entièrement conformes aux devoirs que nous professions et que nous avons proclamés, ainsi qu'aux principes de notre droit public. Mais, je le répète, des débats sur les questions mêmes qui se discutent au Congrès de Berlin ne seraient pas opportuns; et ceci d'autant plus que les Plénipotentiaires ont pris l'engagement du secret le plus absolu; c'est là un engagement d'honneur que nos devons respecter.

J'espère donc qu'après cette déclaration les auteurs de l'interrogation se pénétreront des difficultés de la situation et n'insisteront pas sur leur demande.

M. Cavallotti consent à retirer son interrogation, et cela d'autant plus voluntiers que la nouvelle arrivée ce matin de l'admission de la Grèce au Congrès lui donne la conviction que l'Italie n'a eu aucune part dans le fait en question.

Le but de mon interrogation, ajoute l'orateur, aurait été de dire que, puisque tout le monde parle de rectifications de frontières, l'Italie aussi a ses frontières à rectifier. (Bruit.)

M le Président: Je dois faire observer à l'orateur que le règlement lui permet seulement de déclarer s'il retire ou non son interrogation.

M. Cavallotti ajoute quelques autres mots et se déclare rassuré par les paroles du Président de Conseil.

L'incident n'a pas d'autre suite.

No. 527.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 776.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 30, 1878.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to call the attention of the Porte to the circumstances related in Mr. Sandwith's despatch to you of the 1st instant, from which it appears that Her Majesty's Consul was fired upon by the Turkish troops whilst proceeding to Fré in Apokorona.

I should wish your Excellency to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that all possible precautions may be taken to prevent such an occurrence from happening again.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 528.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 621.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 29, 1878.*

THE following from Blunt, dated Larissa, yesterday:—

"Said Pasha informs me confidentially that Governor-General of Epirus telegraphs to him, having learnt from authentic source at Corfu that military preparations on a large scale are making in Greece intended against Thessaly. Porte has countermanded withdrawal of further troops from Thessaly."

No. 529.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 633.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 29, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Captain Fife to-day:—

Fighting uninterrupted in Rhodope, latterly unfavourable to insurgents. Ten thousand troops at Philippopolis prepared to enter mountains. Troops continue to arrive from Balkans on entering Rhodope (*sic*). Russians acknowledge heavy losses but are confident of crushing insurrection eventually. Russians are said to make no prisoners.

No. 530.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Rome, June 29, 1878.*

DISTURBANCES took place at Venice last evening. Austrian Consul's house attacked, windows broken. Prefect immediately suppressed riot, and apologized to Consul. It is believed that new Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, when publicy known, will produce demonstrations by party of action in Chamber and country.

General Menabrea is doing as much mischief as possible. He writes that people of high position in England express surprise that Italian Plenipotentiaries are not accompanied by engineer officers so as to be ready to discuss new Italian frontiers.

I cannot see President of Council to-day, but I have begged Count Maffei to urge him to do nothing imprudent in regard to Austrian occupation. Might it be represented as only temporary?

No. 531.

Mr. Cross to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 30, 1878, 8 P.M.*

FOLLOWING sent to Sir A. H. Layard:—

"Eastern Telegraph Company have communicated following telegram from their Superintendent in Crete:—

"'Friday afternoon. Turkish Admiral insists that European ships must leave anchorage before Canea. News from Rethymo alarming. Irregulars concentrating outside town menacing inhabitants. Consuls ask for European man-of-war for protection.'"

Above repeated to Her Majesty's Consul in Crete.